FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 JULY 1984

USSR Mideast Proposal

A Jerusalem radio commentator reiterated Israel's objections to the Soviet Union's recent call for a Middle East conference, pointing out that the USSR has no diplomatic ties with Israel and that Israel believes that direct negotiations are a better way to achieve results. He also emphasized that PLO participation in such a conference is a "sticky" point. A Cairo radio commentary termed the call for a Middle East conference a "ray of hope" and a "constructive addition" to present peace efforts. However, the radio continued, despite the "extreme importance" of the Soviet proposal, it is 7 years too late and has no possibility of being implemented because the political realities in the area have changed. Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali added in a French newspaper interview cited by MENA that an international conference on the Middle East cannot be held unless it is preceded by improvements in East-West relations.

The PLO and the Palestinian people support the Soviet initiative, according to a statement by PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi reported by Tunis radio. Qaddumi added that an international conference is the "ideal way to a just and comprehensive settlement" of the Middle East crisis. A DFLP spokesman cited by KUNA also expressed support for the Soviet move, calling it an "incentive" to accelerate the reunification of the PLO factions. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, however, noted that Israeli and U.S. opposition to the plan is enough to prevent its realization.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Central Committee has decided to send a delegation to Algiers to participate in the expanded Palestinian meeting stipulated by the Algiers-Aden agreement at which a date will be fixed for the 17th PNC session, the Central Committee spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio. The committee, which met in Tunis on 29 July, also approved the continuation of contacts with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, expressing the hope that a Syrian-Palestinian agreement can be reached that will serve the interests of thePalestinian people. The Fatah leaders considered that Faruq Qaddumi's recent talks with Al-Asad took place in a "spirit of optimism" indicating that the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue can lead to the restoration of Arab solidarity. As for the Israeli elections, the committee denounced the "racist Zionist trend" of the results and contended that the "betting" on the Labor Party in Europe and the United States is unrelated to any realistic possibility of establishing a just peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Fatah statement also reaffirmed the need to escalate the armed struggle against Israel, noting that this requires improving the efficiency of the PLO's military forces.

Lebanon

Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Countries Department, will visit Beirut on 3 August to meet with senior Lebanese officials, Beirut radio reported. Diplomatic sources think the talks will center on the Soviet proposal for an international conference on the Middle East problem, the radio added.

Meanwhile, after a short visit to Damascus, Information Minister Joseph Skaf said he discussed the reopening of the Beirut-Damascus highway in his talks with the Syrian leaders, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. The Syrians expressed their full support for the reunification of Lebanon's official information media, he added. On this topic, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam told Beirut radio that the continuing split in the media is not assisting Lebanon's reunification and that Syria hopes the Lebanese Cabinet's next step will be to unify the radio and television.

Syrian-Jordanian Relations

A member of the Jordanian parliamentary delegation which recently met with President al-Asad in Damascus told the Paris weekly *AL-MUSTAQBAL* that the Syrian leader had stressed the "pan-Arab need" for Syrian-Jordanian detente in order to confront Israel.

FBIS

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Reportage on Palestinian Reaction to USSR Proposal

PLO Welcomes Soviet Proposals

LD301652 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The PLO has welcomed the practical proposals declared yesterday by the Soviet Union for the settlement of the Middle East crisis. The proposal calls for the convocation of an international conference, with the participation of all concerned parties and under the auspices of the United Nations.

In a news statement, Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, said that the Soviet initiative clearly indicates the Soviet Union's adherence to the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and other Arab rights, stressing that this initiative indicates a definite intention and a desire to find a fair settlement to the Middle East crisis. He emphasized that the PLO and the Palestinian people, who are struggling to recover their national rights, support these international efforts to find a just solution in the Middle East which ensures the participation of the PLO as a sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and ensures the return of this people to their territories and the establishment of their Palestinian independent state.

The chief of Palestinian diplomacy concluded his statement by saying that the PLO believes the convocation of an international conference, with the participation of all concerned parties including the two superpowers instead of unilateral deals and settlements, is the ideal way to a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis.

DFLP Supports Initiative

LD301830 Kuwait KUNA in English 1747 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, July 30 (KUNA) — A major PLO grouping has announced its backing for Sunday's Soviet Middle East settlement plan saying the proposals outlined by Moscow could form a basis around which different Palestinian groups could reunite. A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called on the PLO's Executive Committee and all its constituent groupings to support the initiative, which details plans for a comprehensive conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict.

The proposals envisage peace being based on Israeli withdrawal from territory occupied since 1967, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and guarantees of secure borders for all regional states. The leftist DFLP said that the Soviet initiative could act as "an incentive to all" to speed up work to reunite all the groupings which make up the PLO. Moscow's proposals were also discussed by the Palestine National Council (the Palestinian parliament) Speaker Khalid al-Fahum in a meeting here Monday with Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Yukhin, an Al-Fahum aide said. The Soviet diplomat expressed his country's concern that the PLO be reunified through negotiations based on its legitimate institutions, he said.

Earlier in Tunis, the PLO's Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi announced the organization's support for the Soviet initiative, which has been given the cold shoulder by both the United States and Israel.

Voice of PLO Comment

JN301903 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1627 GMT 30 Jul 84

[By radio political editor]

[Text] Yesterday, the USSR renewed its call for an international conference on peace in the Middle East. In a *PRAVDA* editorial, the USSR stated that the conference will be held under the United Nations and will be attended by the parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO — the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — and other countries in the Middle East, countries that are interested in the conflict, have influence on it, and can contribute to its solution. The conference will also be attended by the United States and the USSR because of their influence in this region.

In addition, the Soviet call defined the procedures for the conference. The call states that the conference may begin with the participants' foreign ministers and then continue at the level of competent representatives. The objective of the conference is to achieve peace, security, and the rights of the Middle East countries and peoples.

It is obvious that the USSR is renewing the Brezhnev plan, which was announced 4 years ago. The Brezhnev plan contains most of the items published in *PRAVDA* yesterday. However, in its call now, Moscow is supporting a large-scale international campaign to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

It is known that this was the main topic in the UN secretary general's tour of the Middle East and the world in the past months. On the basis of this tour, the Arab parties concerned expressed support for the idea and their willingness to participate. The PRC expressed its agreement on the conference, and Western Europe expressed general acceptance.

Of course, the United States and the Zionist entity opposed an international conference on peace in the Middle East. In other words, the other party to the conflict, represented by international and local representatives, opposes the conference. It is obvious that this opposition is enough to prevent the realization of this idea.

Can we say that all calls and support for the conference are meaningless so long as the opposition of the United States and Israel prevents its convocation? Of course not. The fact is that the matter is not simply a call being issued and then seeing it rejected. This does not reflect the real meaning of the conflict. Practically speaking, what makes the conference necessary is that the balance of power and the tension resulting from this balance have become so serious that all concerned must find a solution to this situation.

Consequently, the USSR's participation in the front attempting to hold the conference is as important as the USSR's weight in the balance of power in the local and international arenas. This participation aims at shaping the equation in such a way that will guarantee a counter-weight to the United States and its rejection of the conference. In any event, in the equation the local parties will remain the most important factor. In this regard, the international conference — if convened — will result in the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights.

The Arab countries must not continue to deal with the idea of the conference as if it concerns some distant part of the world. They must not continue to deal with the conflict as if it does not concern them. If this situation continues, the international conference will not be held.

If the conference is held under international conditions, the Arab countries will be only a symbolic party to it, and their share of the conference's results will also be symbolic. Since the matter is a pressing issue in the international arena, the Arab side must unite its ranks, activate itself, and regroup its power and alliances to achieve a solution that will satisfy at least part of the Arab citizen's pan-Arab and national ambitions.

Reportage on Fatah CC Meetings in Tunis

Contacts With Al-Asad Approved

LD301508 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The Central Committee of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah, has approved the continuation of contacts with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad after his recent meeting with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

After the first of the round of Central Committee meetings held in Tunis since yesterday, an official spokesman today stated that the Fatah Central Committee, which has debated the results of Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Damascus and his meeting with the Syrian president, considered the Syrian president's welcome of the continuation of these visits and meetings as a positive step toward arranging a meeting between delegations from the two sides, the achievement of which would serve the interests of the Palestinian struggle under the leadership of the liberation organization, and that the continuation of the dialogue will lead to the restoration of Arab solidarity to confront the various foreign policies hostile to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Regarding the Palestinian dialogue in the light of the Aden agreement signed on 13 July in Algiers by the Fatah movement, the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Communist Party, and the Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Fatah Central Committee considered this agreement as a basic element of the requirements of the situation and as a fertile basis for the escalation of the Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of the liberation front for self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state guided by the PNC decisions. The Central Committee is expected to continue its work following the return of PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat to Tunis.

In the light of the results of the Israeli elections, the Fatah Central Committee called for total adherence to Palestinian national unity and Arab solidarity and for the escalation of the Palestinian struggle. An official spokesman for the Central Committee stated today that the Central Committee considers the extremist Zionist trends in these elections winning most seats of the Knesset, including the Labor and Likud Parties and the terrorist racist Meir Kahane, to be an expression of the depth of the hostile racist Zionist trend among the Israeli public and its political and military leadership.

Underlining that it was not at all surprised by the results of the elections because it expected an expression of the state of political and economic differences and confusion prevailing in the Zionist entity and believes that it will get worse, the Central Committee pointed out that bets laid in Europe and America that the Labor Party would win have no connection with reality concerning peace founded on justice with Israel. The committee mentioned that the Labor Party was the one that led the Zionist movement and the Zionist onslaught against the people of Palestine and the Arab nation.

Central Committee Ends Meeting

JN301717 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1613 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee ended the first meeting of its preparatory session in Tunis yesterday. It endorsed the provisions of the Algiers agreement that was signed by the Palestinian revolution's groups. The Central Committee also entrusted a Palestinian delegation under Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, to represent the Central Committee at the preparatory meetings of the expanded Palestinian dialogue to be held in Algiers in the near future.

Our correspondent said that the Central Committee discussed a number of issues to be dealt with within the framework of the forthcoming Palestinian meetings, especially the meetings of the Palestinian organizations' secretaries general to be held in Algiers, and the discussion of current efforts to purify the Arab atmosphere, paving the way for the 31st Arab summit in Riyadh in November. The Central Committee also studied developments in the occupied hhomeland and the results of the Zionist elections. It heard a report on the outcome of the first conference of Palestinian communities in Latin American countries.

Algiers VOP Report

LD302306 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] An official spokesman for the Fatah Central Committee has stated the following: The Fatah Central Committee began a new round of its periodical meetings. It held its first session in Tunis on the morning of Sunday, 29 July, 1984.

Here are some of the topics discussed and the resolutions adopted about them:

1. Algiers-Aden agreement:

The Fatah Central Committee has followed the steps taken after the signing of the agreement of national unity signed in Algiers and Aden within the framework of the national unity between the Palestine national liberation movement, Fatah, and the delegations of the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestine Communist Party. During the deliberations, the Central Committee stressed its interest in [word indistinct] commitment with all its political and [word indistinct] in letter and spirit. It is considered a basic element of the requirements of the positive situation of the instrument of the Palestinian struggle and a fertile ground for escalation of the effectiveness of the struggle of our Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO in all spheres of the national struggle and [word indistinct] toward its liberation, the return and self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state (?based on) the decision of the PNC, and particularly the resolutions of the recent 16th session in Algiers. From this premise, the Central Committee has decided to entrust its delegation which had participated in accomplishing this national agreement with the task of leaving for Algiers to begin the preparatory meetings of the expanded Palestinian meeting stipulated by the Algiers-Aden meeting, and to fix the date for the 17th session of the convening of the PNC, which will be held in Algiers.

The Fatah Central Committee has expressed its profound appreciation to the brothers in Algiers and Aden for the valuable efforts they made in this respect.

2. The visit of Brother Faruq Qaddumi to Damascus:

The Central Committee has also discussed in detail the outcome of Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Damascus and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. This meeting took place on the ground of responsible militant frankness in a friendly atmosphere and positive spirits. A large number of general points were discussed within the framework of [word indistinct] struggle of the Palestine revolution as a whole and Syrian-Palestinian relations in general and the Syrian-[word indistinct] in particular, and the reflection of all that on the Arab masses and the international arena and its relationship with the nature and future of the conflict with the Zionist enemy and the U.S. policy in the Middle East, which is strategically in alliance with the Zionist entity.

It became clear to the committee that the spirit of optimism for the future was evident in the lengthy conversation which took place between President Hafiz al-Asad and Brother Faruq Qaddumi. This fact prompts one to hopefully believe that if the dialogue reaches the results required by the supreme pan-Arab interests, then the result will lead to the restoration of Arab solidarity on the basis of struggle in confronting the various policies which are hostile to our people and the Arab nation.

It considered the welcome by the president for the continuation of such visits and meetings as positive steps on the road to having a meeting between two delegations, at which an agreement can be reached that will serve the interests of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

The Central Committee has approved the continuation of the contacts with President Hafiz al-Asad so that the required goal is achieved.

3. The meetings which took place between the Fatah movement and the Lebanese Communist Party:

The Central Committee listened to Brother Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, in charge of conducting dialogue with the Lebanese Communist Party, and the results reached. The Central Committee has welcomed the positive results reached by the dialogue. It also approved the agreement reached and decided to continue the dialogue in accordance with the agreement reached at the last meeting.

4. The Israeli elections:

The committee has debated all the reports it received about the results of the recent elections in the Zionist entity and the reactions at home and abroad, particularly in Western Europe and the United States. The Fatah movement was not surprised at all with the results of these elections. The results were as expected by the Central Committee, since they express the state of political and economic difference and confusion which prevails in the Zionist entity. It will get much worse. It was clear to the Fatah Central Committee from its study of the declared election manifestos of the majority of the parties and through the number of the electoral lists, which total 26, that these parties and their programs represent agreement of action of [word indistinct] enmity to the people of Palestine, such as the hostility to the national rights of this struggling and steadfast people.

If the Labor Party represents the extremist stance, then the others of the [word indistinct] Zionist blocs, starting with the Likud and ending with Kahane, represent insane behavior. The winning of the Zionist and the extremist trends of the majority of the seats of the Knesset, including Labor and Likud and the terrorist racist Kahana, is an expression of the depth of the hostile racist Zionist trend in Israeli public opinion and its political and (ideological) leaderships.

It also clearly shows that the racist and the rancourous aggression are the gauge of the election programs and winning in the Knesset. This also means that the betting on the Labor Party carried out in Europe and America has no connection with any practical reality in the direction of peace based on justice in the conflict which exists with the Zionist entity. The Zionist Labor Party was the one which led the Zionist movement and which led the wars of the Zionist entity against the people of Palestine and the Arab nation.

This clearly confirms that unless the Zionist philosophy changes and disappears and is replaced by realistic thinking which recognizes the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their own independent state, the aggressive racism which is founded on military force and expansion at the expense of the Arab homeland will remain the established policy of the Zionist enemy. It is also the policy which governs the anti-Palestine people and anti-Arab nation American-Zionist strategic alliance.

All this requires total adherence to the Palestinian national unity and Arab solidarity. It requires escalation of the armed Palestinian struggle and all aspects of the other struggles in a manner that will achieve the requirements of the confrontation on the level of [words indistinct] with the Zionist entity. Moreover, this also requires raising the efficiency of the Palestine revolution forces and developing their ability in a manner that will make them capable of meeting their responsibilities of struggle in the new phase of confrontation.

5. The recent round of dialogue with Jordan:

The Central Committee has acquainted itself with the results of the talks which were held recently in Amman with the Jordanian Government. It has evaluated the results of such talks and the positive dialogue particularly with regard to bilateral relations and their consolidation within the framework of the interest of the Palestinian struggle and the requirements of the Arab solidarity in the current critical phase.

6. The occupied homeland:

The Central Committee has followed up the continuous struggle of our people inside the occupied homeland.

This brethren, was the official statement made by the official spokesman of the Fatah Central Committee. The committee began its periodical meetings yesterday in Tunis.

PLO Spokesman on PNC Meetings, Syrian Talks

GF311053 Doha QNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 31 Jul (WNA) — The PLO official spokesman, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar has asserted in a statement published here today that the dialogue between the Palestinian National and Democratic Alliances has advanced with great strides and that all political obstacles have been overcome.

He added that discussion is currently focusing on organizational matters, which include finding a Palestinian leadership that is capable of attaining a firm commitment to the PLO transitional platform.

Abu Mayzar, who is taking part in the dialogue between the two alliances as a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* today that he has warned against a convocation of the PNC before a comprehensive agreement among the various Palestinian organizations is reached. He called for further efforts to restore PLO unity so that the PNC meeting can be held as soon as possible.

Abu Mayzar described the meeting which took place recently between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and a Palestinian delegation led by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum as being positive and fruitful. He said: The Syrian president expressed extreme keenness on maintaining the unity and continuity of the PLO as a power antagonistic to imperialism and to Zionism and as a power committed to a sound national line.

Voice of PLO Interviews Fatah CC Member Al-Hasan

JN282020 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Hani al-Hasan] When the Palestinian national unity suffers a crisis, the Palestinian people undoubtedly face a most dangerous situation. A unified people and a united Palestinian command will not fear any kind of plot from the strategic viewpoint. We have passed through a difficult phase. It is true that now is not the time to talk about the past. However, I would like to say that the independent Palestinian decisionmaking was exposed to danger. There was a plan to create an alternative to the PLO. This alternative, which would be controlled by some, would be based on ending Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] leadership.

When we found that the Palestinian independent position was at stake — that there was an attempt to create a controlled alternative to the PLO with the aim of solving other problems at the expense of the Palestinian cause — we rejected this and confronted this mean plot which was aimed at destroying the Fatah movement and 'Arafat's leadership of the Palestinian revolution. We confronted this plot, because what took place was not a struggle within Fatah but a struggle over Fatah. It was a struggle over the backbone of Fatah, which is the backbone of the Palestinian revolution. This means that it was a struggle over the PLO leadership. Some people took a positive stand in defending the Palestinian independence, some took a negative stand by pretending to defend the Palestinian independence, and some planned and carried out a plot.

Therefore, we in the Fatah movement, went to Aden believing that we were the backbone and the leaders. Therefore, we were required to behave in a fatherly manner and not as equals among equals in the Palestinian arena. The leadership that forgoes paternity is not a leadership. Therefore, we opened the way for our brothers and held a dialogue with those who also defended the independent Palestinian decisionmaking. They may have defended it through words, but not through fighting as we ourselves did. They stood and defended this decisionmaking and were not a tool in the hands of others. We held an expanded dialogue in Aden, where we heard our brothers' views. They put forward basic points. We formulated resolutions on this issue.

However, this time we will ask the [PNC] council and will work, as a Fatah movement, from within the council in order to formulate clear resolutions on points of difference. Relations with Egypt formed a sort of [sentence incomplete]. The fact is that there is a clear resolution that the basic thing was to abandon the Camp David policy and not to tear up Camp David, because tearing up Camp David is the end rather than the beginning of the struggle or the process.

There is also the question of Jordan and our relations with it. We discussed this at length and adopted a decision. We agreed that we should not embark on joint political moves with Jordan in order to search for a solution to the Palestinian problem if these moves impinge on our being the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. This means that we can embark on joint political moves with Jordan to search for a solution to the Palestinian problem, provided that these do not impinge on our being the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinians. This is what is taking place now. Therefore, we discussed this problem in detail. We also discussed the situation in the occupied territory and the situation in Lebanon. We in Fatah presented a plan to reorganize the PLO.

This plan was not drawn up because the PLO was not led well in the past. On the contrary, the PLO was led well in the past. However, after we were scattered in the diaspora, and in light of the new developments, it has become necessary to set up a new framework for running affairs. Therefore, we have proposed the formation of a permanent general secretariat for the PLO Executive Committee, composed of the PLO Executive Committee members and led by its chairman, with the condition that this General Secretariat makes its headquarters in the same place where the PLO Executive Committee chairman resides.

In light of this, we in Fatah reject holding bilateral dialogue with those who raised their weapons in our face, those who shed Palestinian blood, and those who shelled Palestinian camps just as Sharon did. We have told our brothers in the PLO: If you can tolerate the psychological impact, then hold a dialogue with them. They are still PNC memebrs. Ahmad Jibril is still a PNC member and Samir Ghawshah is still a PNC member. Thus, when I call for a PNC meeting or for a dialogue, I cannot deprive them of the right to attend. This is because as a believer in democracy and one who is committed to [Palestinian] institutions, I must adhere to these institutions' principles and not to my personal opinion or the opinion of the organization to which I belong. However, we refuse to hold a bilateral dialogue with those who shed Palestinian blood, because Palestinian blood has its own sanctity. We have agreed with our brothers in Aden to denounce the Tripoli battle and all the battles that have taken place in northern [Lebanon] and we have agreed to take to account those who did this.

We will go to the PNC meeting. During the PNC meeting, Brother Abu 'Ammar will speak about his Cairo visit and express his point of view. He has the right to do so and everyone has the right to call the PLO Executive Committee and its chairman to account. We are a democratic organization that respects members' decisions. We will also call to account those who shed Palestinian blood. It is true that we have the right to adopt different opinions. However, this must be based on national stands within the PLO. We are not allowed to be agents under national covers. I am pleased to say that the main bloc in the PLO met in Aden and Algiers and reached an agreement. The agreement calls for the need to begin a comprehensive national dialogue that is supposed to start within the next few days in Algiers. The first and most important thing this dialogue will do is set a date for the PNC meeting, which will be held no later than 15 September.

[Unidentified correspondent, interrupting] Does this mean that this PNC meeting will not be allowed to be held after 15 September?

[Al-Hasan] It will not be allowed to be held after 15 September.

[Correspondent] We have learned that the Aden agreement states that if the secretaries general do not reach an agreement on a date for convening the PNC, then the dialogue committee which signed the Aden agreement will call for a PNC meeting.

[Al-Hasan] This is a written and not a verbal agreement. There is a document called the PNC paper. This paper says that the comprehensive national dialogue committee comprised of the PLO Executive Committee, the PNC office, and the secretaries general of the factions that are recognized in the PNC, will meet. The first thing they must do is set a date for convening the PNC, and the meeting must be held no later than 15 September. Our brothers in Algiers and Aden have signed this document with us. Our brothers in Algiers exerted great efforts to convene the PNC in Algiers, considering that it is the best place for convening the PNC. Moreover, Algeria has informed everyone that when the PLO Executive Committee chairman informs it of the date for holding the PNC, it will take measures in this regard. In light of this, we will go to the PNC meeting. We hope that this meeting will discuss Palestinian interests in detail.

Everyone must know that our major task is to protect the Palestinian people's interests, as well as the unity of their decision, independence, and future. We will discuss these topics in detail. Everyone must know that the PLO has passed a difficult test, that it now has control of its affairs, and that is is capable of making the decision it wants. Moreover, the PLO fears no one and no one can scare it, whether he seeks to impose control on it or to prevent it from achieving the Palestinian people's objectives.

[Correspondent] Brother Hani, you are well aware of the real circumstances. Some people say that Abu al-Lutf visited Damascus several times, and that he will visit Syria again. I would like to ask you about the issue of restoring relations between Fatah, the PLO, and Syria. I hope that you will deal with this issue in some detail, especially since our radio is directed to our kinfolk in the occupied land who have many questions.

[Al-Hasan] Of course, the basic principle adopted by the Palestinian policy is that we should direct all fire toward the Israeli enemy. Therefore, there is a basic conflict and a secondary conflict. The basic conflict is between the Arab nation and the Islamic nation on one hand and the Zionist entity on the other. When we describe a certain conflict as secondary, we do not mean that it is not important. The secondary conflict is the one that is forgettable, a fact that compels us to stage peripheral battles that do not serve the basic objective — namely, confronting the Zionist enemy. Therefore, when we stage a battle over the secondary conflict, we stage that battle with the aim of ending it quickly. Then we go back to the basic conflict [words indistinct].

Hence, any conflict between us and any other Arab side or country is a secondary one, because the basic conflict is between the entire Arab nation and the Zionist enemy.

When we enter any conflict with any Arab state, we enter it with the aim of ending it quickly — only to draw the other party into a new confrontation. Therefore, when we talk about Arab solidarity, we mean laying groundwork for a military and political image. I cannot present any political and military plan to confront the Israeli enemy while I am in conflict with any other Arab side. We were compelled to enter into a confrontation with the Syrians in order to protect ourselves, to defend ourselves, and to preserve the Palestinian revolution's independence. We have been trying to end the conflict since the first day of the confrontation. Now we are seeking an understanding with the Syrians, but we should consider the Koranic verse: Muhammad is the Apostle of God; and those who are with him are strong against unbelievers, but compassionate amongst each other.

We should seek relations that are balanced and equal and characterized with mutual respect. Hence, I can say without any hesitation that we are determined to exert every effort to establish balanced, clear relations with fraternal Syria in order to gain the Syrian Army and to create an eastern front comprised of the Jordanian Army, the Syrian Army, the Palestinian forces, the Lebanese nationalist movement, and the Iraqi Army, when the war ends. Therefore, Brother Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] is exerting great effort to end the Iraq-Iran war, because this war serves the Zionist enemy.

Therefore, the recent meeting between Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and President Hafiz al-Asad was not a simple one. We should always acquaint our people with the real situation. The meeting was a long one. They reviewed the past events and the basic issues in the region. Brother Abu al-Lutf also clarified to President al-Asad that the PLO is prepared to discuss any issue without any preconditions. However, everyone should know that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and everyone should also know that when we talk about the independent Palestinian national decisionmaking we do not mean that we reject any pan-Arab aspect of our decisionmaking. Syria has its own view about the future of the Palestine question and every Arab has his own opinion. Every side has the right to voice its view and stage its struggle.

We adhere to our independent decisionmaking because our cause was exploited in 1948. Therefore, we oppose any side that wants to solve its regional problems at the expense of the Palestine question. We do not ask any international side to adhere to the Palestine question in order to solve its own problems, or to seek a role in the region through the Palestine question. We are not a plaything. We are not a bag of treasures which does not belong to anybody and which is exploited by some people in order to solve their problems at the expense of our tragedies.

If somebody has a plan of struggle, let him present it. If he can give more than we can, then he is more advanced than we are. We will be thankful for him. We have never claimed that the military decision against Israel is a Palestinian decision. This decision will eventually be an Arab decision. Therefore, the Palestinian command and diplomacy must know that their task is to restore Syria and deal with it within a clear formula and on an equal and harmonious basis. It has been agreed that Brother Abu al-Lutf will return [to Syria] soon to resume the dialogue. I hope that a Fatah delegation will visit after that in order to discuss all of the points on the agenda.

[Correspondent] At the end of our interview, we would like you to address a few words to our people in the occupied territories who have been facing terrorism with sticks and stones. A word from Brother al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and Brother Abu 'Ammar's political adviser.

[Al-Hasan] I tell our people in the occupied territories that when we began our Palestinian revolution in 1965, the talk about a Palestinian state and about raising the Palestinian flag seemed a distant hope. Now I can say that the Palestinian state is no longer a mere hope, but a reality. I tell our people in the occupied territories that the increasing pressure on them and us, and the war which has been going on since 1981 — 22 buildings fell on our heads in Beirut [sentence incomplete]. It is not by chance that this pressure has been increased so much. The reason is that the closer we get to our goals, the fiercer the enemy becomes. The enemy's reaction is directly in proportion to our strength. The most important thing for us is that we not let our patience run out. The prophet used to say: Between victory and defeat is an hour's patience.

I tell our brothers in the occupied territories that they are the ultimate protectors of the revolution; they are its backers and future. What we should know is what Begin, Peres, and Reagan want. They want our determination to erode. Then they would talk to us and force us to sign the document of surrender. Therefore, our will to remain steadfast should not erode. They should know that they can take everything from us except our will and faith.

Hence, we should be stronger and firmer, because these Israelis will be treating us something like a walnut; they will not eat us unless they crack us. We have weathered a great storm. The Palestinian people will be partners in [word indistinct] by the superpowers and will have their flag hoisted on their land.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Brother Hani al-Hasan.

Palestinian Alliances Differ Over Aden Agreement

LD302057 Kuwait KUNA in English 1816 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, July 30 (KUNA) - The Palestinian Democratic Alliance Monday [30 July] challenged the rival National Alliance of PLO groupings to substantiate its criticisms of the Aden agreement reached earlier this month between the Democratic Alliance and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Central Committee of the mainstream Fatah Movement. In a statement issued here, the Democratic Alliance said that the National Alliance's denunciation of the agreement was "impulsive." In particular, the Democratic Alliance challenged the National Alliance to provide evidence of its assertion that it was supported in its opposition by sectors of the Palestinian people and leading personalities.

The National Alliance — made up of 'Arafat's opponents within his mainstream Fatah movement, the pro-Syrian Al-Saiqa group, the Popular Front-General Command and the Palestine Popular Struggle Front — earlier held talks with the Democratic Alliance over the issue.

The Democratic Alliance — comprising the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Communist Party and the Palestine Liberation Front — also opposes many of 'Arafat's policies, but reached agreement with his followers after several rounds of talks in Aden and Algiers.

The Democratic Alliance said that allegations made in the National Alliance's rejection of the Aden agreement were unfounded. The Democratic Alliance said that there was no truth to the National Alliance's claim that the Aden agreement constituted a backdown on attitudes to 'Arafat's controversial Cairo visit last year and his relations with both Egypt and Jordan.

The Aden document clearly stated that there should be adherence to Palestine National Council (PNC — the Palestinian parliament) policy, which in turn was clear on these issues, it added. The Aden agreement said that 'Arafat was accountable to the PNC and other legitimate Palestinian institutions over these matters, the alliance said, adding that it was the Palestinian people "who will judge on the credibility of the stance adopted by any Palestinian grouping."

The Democratic Alliance renewed its commitment to all-round dialogue within the Palestinian movement to try and re-establish comprehensive unity and said that it saw the Aden agreement as a statement of the joint ground on which such a dialogue could be made to succeed. It added that the National Alliance's rejection of the document was "divisive," and roundly rejected its call to form a "national salvation council" which, the Democratic Alliance said, would be tantamount to establishing an alternative to the PLO.

KUWAIT

Press Comments on Soviet Peace Proposals

LD301141 Kuwait KUNA in English 1047 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Kuwait, July 30 (KUNA) — Kuwait's daily *AL-WATAN* said Monday that Arab unity, political support and more powerful Arab military capacity are prerequisits before attending the Soviet proposed Middle East conference.

While the English-language daily, *KUWAIT TIMES* called on U.S. President Ronald Reagan to positively react "to these proposals instead of rejecting them like Israel".

AL-WATAN said the Soviet initiative is comprehensive since it provides solution to the problems of Palestine, Lebanon, and an overall and everlasting settlement.

It added that the initiative "comes close, if not coincides with what the Arabs have demanded in the Fes summit".

In that summit, Arab leaders called for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967, establishment of the Palestinian state and the return of eastern Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty.

The paper ruled out any possibility for a Mideast settlement without the involvement of the superpowers.

"The Middle East is the West's oil well, and also the Soviet's southern borders", *AL-WATAN* said.

It stated that the balance of power in the Middle East should be brought into an equilibrium by military and political support to the initiative, "because the negotiating table will not be set under an unbalanced situation".

The *KUWAIT TIMES* said Reagan will have a better chance to be re-elected once he convinced Israel to join the peace talks.

It added if Reagan is going to defer resumption of the Middle East talks until he is re-elected, this might give his rival a free edge.

The paper added that in case Reagan refuses to join the talks "he will allow his already sinking credibility in the Arab world to go further low".

Praising efforts by the Soviet Union to solve the Middle East problem through an international conference, the paper said, "The Soviets have invited the U.S. to participate in the conference which will also be attended by the Soviet Union".

"The Soviet Union has definitely taken a step forward towards solving the Middle East tangle by presenting its proposals for peace in the region", the *KUWAIT TIMES* said, adding, "President Reagan would only be helping himself if he positively reacts to the proposals for peace in the region".

ARAB TIMES Comments on Iranian Peace Overtures

GF311133 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Jul 84 p 6

["Opinion" column by Editor in Chief Ahmad al-Jarallah: "If the Olive Branch Is There, Let's See It"]

[Text] Iran is holding out the olive branch, according to sources in Washington. It is doing this after making the whole region, including Iran, spend about $200 billion on a fiendish war for which there is no reason to continue.

Iran has ignored the voice of reason throughout the past four years and only listened to foreign parties whose aim was to drain the country of its oil wealth. These huge financial reserves, which could have benefited the whole region, helped it to improve living standards and also helped other Islamic and developing nations, have been lost for good.

The olive branch has come too late.

It would have been much better if Iran had set aside its spiteful policies which drove it into miserable isolation from the civilised world, and saved us all the rivers of blood and money. Iran's olive branch has come late ... too late. But better late than never.

Iran could have been a great help to the Arab countries of the Gulf and could have become a driving force if it joined hands with Iraq, the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia, instead of antagonizing them all. If the Iranian olive branch has really been offered, we would like to see it: We have become weary and tired of the loss of blood and money.

AL-ANBA' Responds to 'Arafat's Accusations

GF301848 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 29 Jul 84 p 1

[Editorial: "No 'Arafat, We Are Not a Newspaper of Flatterers"]

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat is angry at *AL-ANBA'*. It is 'Arafat's right to accuse and get angry, but under one condition: There should be an objective justification for this anger. Without it, the anger becomes an inappropriate outburst of irritability and a wrong stance which should be discussed, criticized and answered.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is angry at the *AL-ANBA'* 7 July editorial in which we criticized the way he announced the military organizational decisions by sending a section of commandos into retirement or the reserves.

This editorial, which should have received Abu 'Ammar's appreciation and response because it stems from a spirit of love, concern, and fear for the PLO and its entity, was received by 'Arafat with accusations, anger, and irritation. This method contradicts revolutionary logic and the personality of the struggling leader who should know that he is not above criticism or exempt from the democratic dialogue from which he receives his power, his revolutionary base and the support of the Palestinian and Arab masses.

But Abu 'Ammar contradicts himself and the principle of democracy from which the message of revolution and the PLO's principles stem when he says: "I oppose what was written by *AL-ANBA'*. It is a shame. The *AL-ANBA'* editorial is a shame. I do not permit anyone to interfere in our affairs. We are free in making decisions. It is not possible for someone to tell me: You do not make decisions. This is a restriction on us and we do not accept it. It is not possible when I want to make a military decision that I should ask permission of the Kuwaiti press."

Then he says the strangest thing that could ever be said by a leader of the Palestinian revolution which is firmly in our hearts. He says: "I make the faithful decisions, what is it to you?" What is it to us?

Do you believe the concern for the revolution and the desire to correct any decision which harms it is a mistake? Is it a courage which you do not permit and a motive which stirs your anger and irritation?

How can you be a struggler and a leader of a revolution which has embodied the aspirations of a people, its homeland, and its rights and then use the word "I" and not "we?"

Hear this from us, O 'Arafat, and with all the love and belief in our hearts for the struggling Palestinian revolution and for the steadfast Palestinian people. We are with the revolution until the end with all our heart, mind, tongue and work. Because we are with it and because we are a living part of it and are its sons who are sincere and faithful in supporting it, we reject your comments, we refuse to listen to them and we do not accept them. We hope it is a mere slip of the tongue or an unjustified outburst of irritation. We have been used to the revolutionaries' logic being a fusion within the framework of the group and not being superior toward the people and arrogant to the rights of the free press and faithful objective criticism stems from genuine national and pan-Arab feelings.

Saudi Proposal for Meeting Postponement Agreed To

LD281047 Kuwait KUNA in English 1009 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] Kuwait, July 28 (KUNA) — Kuwait Saturday agreed to a Saudi Arabian proposal to postpone the meeting of the Arab seven-man committee and the committee for amending the Arab League Charter scheduled to convene in Tunisia next Monday, Foreign Ministry sources said. Saudi Arabia has proposed a new date for holding these two meetings between September 13-15 in the same place.

The Foreign Ministry sources said the date for holding the Afro-Arab Cooperation Committee scheduled to be held in Tripoli between August 2-4 is still on.

ARAB TIMES Calls for Review of Security Measures

GF301202 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 29 Jul 84 p 6

["Opinion" column by Editor in Chief Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Do We Need Such Stringent Measures?"]

[Text] We turn once more to a very important matter that has a serious effect on the Kuwait economy: the stringent security measures that make it very hard for people to visit this country.

Such restrictions are just some of the many causes of the shrinkage in local trade, including the hotel industry and other industries patronised by visitors.

The stopping of No Objection Certificates is another unwarranted measure because Kuwait badly needs manpower, especially for its commercial and industrial activities. These are not only local activities but exist to boost exports, as in the case of contractors and small local plants.

We agree with the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce when he told *AL-ANBA'* newspaper that the security measures seem "too emotional" and have only a negative effect.

The measures are affecting economic activity at a time when other countries are paying millions to publicize themselves, inviting people to make visits.

We do not allow anybody to visit Kuwait, even those who have lived among us for many years and who apply to visit their families, relatives, even their sons.

Other stringent and often illogical laws have made many people leave the country because they interfere with the personal lives of individuals.

There are always laws being passed by the legislature which the executive realises are hard to enforce, which is why Kuwait's courts sometimes refrain from imposing a sentence because the judge's conscience pricks when the law is unjust.

The security measures and the stringent laws have now become a liability, and the private sector and the Kuwaiti people are paying the price.

We therefore call for a review of many such issues, especially since the state has devoted so much of its effort to solving the money market crisis.

Briefs

New Envoy to Mexico — Mexico City, July 28 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United Nations Muhammad Abu al-Hasan Friday presented copies of his credentials to the Mexican Foreign Ministry as the first step toward being accredited as Kuwait's non-resident ambassador to Spanish-speaking America's largest country. The ambassador is scheduled to present his credentials to Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid on Wednesday. He will then remain in Mexico as head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the United Nations population conference, scheduled to be held in Mexico City from Aug 6 to 13. [Excerpts] [Kuwait KUNA in English 1100 GMT 28 Jul 84 LD]

Magazine Suspended — A Kuwait magazine has been suspended by the Ministry of Information following the publication of an article which could stir up "animosity and hatred." *AL-MUJTAMA'*, the weekly magazine published by the Islah Society has been suspended until the Appeal Court makes a ruling on a complaint against it. The Information Ministry asked for the ban because of an article "Oppression Can't Be Partial" which it said could stir up animosity and hatred. [Text][Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Jul 84 p 5 GF]

QATAR

Sudan's Shammu, Delegation Departs Doha

GF301844 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The Sudanese delegation led by 'Ali Muhammad Shammu, Sudanese minister of information and culture, left Doha for the UAE this evening.

Briefs

Outgoing Belgian Envoy — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, received today Pieter Berghs, Belgian ambassador to Qatar at the end of his term of office. [Excerpt][Doha QNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jul 84 GF]

SAUDI ARABIA

ASH-SHARQ AS-AWSAT on U.S., Soviet Military Aid

PM301017 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jul 84 p 3

[Muhammad Sadiq "News Analysis": "Has the U.S. Administration Come to Its Senses Following the Soviet-Kuwaiti Deal?"]

[Text] Washington — The program which the U.S. Defense Department submitted to Congress in a message last Monday regarding helping three Arab countries to strengthen and develop their air defenses reflects a reality which an observer in the U.S. capital can feel, namely that there is no firm U.S. policy toward the Middle East area and its countries except the policy of firm and constant support for Israel, which has become a burden on the United States — a burden against which Americans themselves, including former and present officials, have begun to raise their voices in protest.

This fluctuation in U.S. policy has led to the deterioration in U.S.-Jordanian relations reflected in King Husayn's statements a few months ago, in which he expressed bitterness and frustration with the Reagan administration's attitude to the Middle East problem and lack of response to the Arab viewpoint regarding the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This was also reflected in the U.S. Administration's subsequent rejection of Jordan's request to purchase Stinger missiles, which Defense Department sources say Jordan is still trying to obtain because the present Hawk missile system does not meet its requirements.

The same can be said about the U.S. rejection of Kuwait's request to sell it Stinger missiles, due to Zionist pressure and on the pretext that they could fall into the hands of "terrorists." As a result, Kuwait has turned to the Soviet Union to obtain weapons it needs to protect its security, borders, and airspace. Kuwait achieved what it wanted, and the result was the deal which the Kuwaiti defense minister concluded during his recent visit to the Soviet Union.

This deal, which aroused and is still arousing reactions in U.S. political and military circles because its consequence could be a Soviet presence for the first time in the Arab Gulf region, has brought the U.S. Administration to its "senses" to some degree and prompted it to adopt a constant policy toward the countries of the area and to maintain good relations with them. As a result, the U.S. Defense Department came forward with a program for training 150 Kuwaiti pilots in the United States. This is in addition to a U.S. Defense Department's proposal to Congress on 27 June to develop and strengthen Kuwait's Hawk missile system.

Regarding the nature of this program, which represents a certain rectification of U.S. political mistakes in the area, a U.S. defense Department spokesman told *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*: "We are trying to have good relations with our friends, but I cannot be certain that the U.S. Administration is trying to rectify its mistakes."

He added: "The program the Defense Department has announced is a routine action that the United States takes with regard to any friendly country. This applies to spare parts and additional equipment that we will offer to Jordan, Kuwait, and Egypt as we do to any country that has a U.S. air defense system." With regard to the training of Kuwaiti pilots, he said: "I cannot say that they are going to train on F-15 aircraft. But certainly they will train on T-37's and T-38's. Their training program will be in English, which makes training easier."

The source expressed the hope that Congress will approve the program in the next 30 days — the period during which Congress will debate it before endorsing it.

In this regard the U.S. Administration has been making efforts to reassure pro-Israeli elements in Congress that the program will not lead to any disturbance of the military balance between Israel and the Arab countries and that it does not constitute any threat or danger to Israel's safety and security.

The administration is making these efforts because the Zionist pressure groups inside and outside Congress sounded the "danger alarm" from the moment the Defense Department announced its program.

But the prevalent belief is that Congress will in the end endorse the program. As for the opposition from Zionist pressure groups, "it is no more than the cheap blackmail of which they are masters, it is the same old tune that they know so well and that we are fed up with hearing. But it is certain that the pressure groups will in the end secure the U.S. military and economic aid they want for Israel."

In reply to a question by *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWASAT* on whether the U.S. Administration intends to take a more serious step in the said "program," such as selling Stinger missiles to some Arab countries, Arab diplomatic sources in Washington said: "The U.S. Administration does actually intend to sell Stinger missiles, particularly to the countries that have asked for them, but not before the U.S. election is over, in view of the problems that such a measure would create at this time in particular."

The sources added: "The U.S. Administration is hoping that this program will strengthen the shaken confidence of countries in the area in U.S. willingness and resolve to help them preserve their security and stability against external threats. But it is an exaggerated hope."

King Fahd Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD310215 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired a Council of Ministers meeting this evening, 30 July.

Following the meeting, Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Hujaylan, member of the Council of Ministers and acting information minister, made a statement in which he said that the cabinet had reviewed the most important events in the international arena as well as matters concerning our Arab and Islamic world and the results of the visit by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami to the Kingdom. His Majesty also renewed his directives that attention should be given to projects and that one should concentrate on their speedy implementation, especially in areas where they are still under study. His Excellency added that the council had approved some matters which had been dealt with already. His Excellency concluded his statement by saying that the council had referred some matters to the committees concerned for study and resubmission at the next meeting.

New Radio Program 'Enlightens' Pilgrims

LD301258 Riyadh SPA in English 1219 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Jidda, July 30, SPA — The Saudi Radio has started an 18-hour daily programme for the enlightment of pilgrims, Deputy Information Minister for Information Affairs Dr Fu'ad Farsi said. The programme will be transmitted in six languages, namely Arabic, English, French, Urdu, Persian and Indonesian and includes a number of Islamic programs beside instructions concerning traffic, health, cleanliness and other relevant topics which would help pilgrims to perform their rituals in ease and comfort.

Farsi told the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY that preparations for the programme began several months ago in cooperation with the Interior Ministry and in line with HM King Fahd's instructions in this connection.

The Saudi radio is transmitting its services in 12 languages. The Ministry of Information has been making efforts to increase the hours of its on services and to cover even the remotest parts the globe.

Briefs

Norway, Qatar Envoys — Jidda, July 29, SPA — HM King Fahd received here today credentials of new ambassadors of Norway and Qatar, John Attlee Jordu (phonetic) and 'Abdallah Salih al-Mana respectively. The royal audience was attended by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Muhammad al-Nuwesar, chief of the royal court and other senior officials. [Text] [Riyadh SPA in English 1915 GMT 29 Jul 84 LD]

UAE

Sudanese Ministerial Delegation Arrives in Abu Dhabi

GF301910 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jul (WAKH) — A delegation from the Democratic Republic of Sudan led by Information and Culture Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shammu arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha this evening on a visit to the UAE within a tour of the region's states. The delegation was received by UAE Information Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid.

The delegation consists of Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman; Dr Yusuf Khalifah Abu Bakr, chairman of the Supreme Council for Religious Affairs and Awqaf; and a number of senior Sudanese officials.

The delegation is carrying a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, dealing with bilateral relations, the issues of mutual concern and the current developments.

KHALEEJ TIMES Supports Soviet Role in Mideast

GF311144 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 31 Jul 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Restoring Balance of Power"]

[Text] The obvious lack of even-handedness in U.S. policy towards the Middle East, as demonstrated once again by the strategic pact between the U.S. and Israel signed last November, has given rise over the last few months to renewed calls from many quarters in the Arab world and elsewhere for a new peace initiative under the auspices of the United Nations. Many world leaders, including King Husayn of Jordan and Chancellor Sinowatz of Austria, have also been calling for a more active participation of the Soviet Union in this process to redress the imbalance between the two superpowers in the region, an imbalance that has only encouraged Israeli arrogance and aggression against the Arabs. The UN General Assembly last December endorsed the call for an international conference on the Middle East involving the PLO as well as the two superpowers. It was not unexpected that the U.S. and Israel would oppose such a call, but it was disappointing that Australia and Canada saw fit to oppose the resolution, and 15 other nations, mainly from Western Europe, including Britain and France, abstained, despite their commitment to the Venice declaration.

Although the Soviet Union has all along been supporting these initiatives, it is only now that it seems to have decided to play a more active role in the peace process. The Soviet news agency TASS on Sunday called for such a conference under UN auspices to be attended by the PLO, the frontline Arab states, the Soviet Union, the U.S. and Israel. To indicate their seriousness on the issue, the Soviets have proposed a six-point peace plan which calls for the withdrawal of Israel from all territories occupied in 1967 and thereafter and the removal of all settlements; the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip under the leadership of the PLO (leaving the question of a possible federation with Jordan to be decided by the new state); the return of East Jerusalem to the Arabs (while guaranteeing free access to religious sites to Jews, Christians and Muslims in all of Jerusalem); security guarantees for all states in the Middle East by the Security Council as a whole or by its five permanent members; and a pledge by all parties to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

These points correspond very closely to the provisions of the Fes plan worked out by the Arab League in 1982 which represents a united Arab position on the question. It is based on the fundamental principles of self-determination of the Palestinians, including the right to national independence; the recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; the total withdrawal of the Israelis from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Arab Jerusalem; and the right to peace and security for all states in the region. These represent the absolutely minimum demands of the Arabs without which, it should be obvious, no peace is possible. Despite numerous concessions made by the Arabs in the interest of peace, the Zionist aggressors, backed by U.S. arms, aid and diplomatic support, have continued in their occupation of Arab lands and refused to negotiate realistically. But the Israelis are no longer invincible after Beirut, nor are their superpower mentors. It is true that the election stalemate in the Zionist entity and electioneering in the U.S. until November make it difficult to see an immediate prospect for the resumption of an international peace process. The PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in fact, has gone so far as to state that the situation in the region does not permit the holding of the conference because, he contends, a political solution can come only through a balance of power. A more active participation by the Soviet Union in the peace process should begin to restore that balance internationally; but the challenge to the Arab world is to back it by restoring the balance of power regionally through greater Arab unity, including the reintegration of Egypt into the political and military equation in the Middle East. This is the prime task of the next Arab summit.

Briefs

Outgoing Envoys to UAE — Abu Dhabi, 29 Jul (WAKH) — Acting undersecretary of the UAE Ministry of Information and Culture Ya'qub al-Kindi, today received here the outgoing Austrian charge d'affaires to the UAE, Peter Singer. The two discussed ways of promoting bilateral cooperation. Meanwhile, Director of the Protocol Department Muhammad Darwish ibn Karam, today met with Gabonese Charge d'Affaires to the UAE Faustin Biyoo, who paid him farewell at the end of his term of office here. [Text] [Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 29 Jul 84 GF]

PDRY

Briefs

Population Estimate — In statement to ANA, the assistant general director of the population survey said that the population of the PDRY in the year 2000 will reach 3,180,000. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jul 84 GF]

Soviet Ship Arrives PDRY — The Soviet merchant ship (*Amin*) arrived at Aden port yesterday. The ship was welcomed by a number of YSP officials and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Aden. The arrival of the Soviet ship will bolster trade relations between the two countries. The ship will transport different kinds of goods during its voyages between the two countries. The first voyage will begin next September. [Summary] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jul 84 GF]

YAR

Kuwait's AS-SIYASAH Reports Oil Discovery

GF301450 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 29 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by *AS-SIYASAH*'s petroleum correspondent]

[Text] *AS-SIYASAH* has learned from reliable petroleum sources that the first experimental oil well in the YAR last week began producing about 7,000 barrels a day. The well was drilled in the eastern YAR amid great optimism. The exploration and drilling was carried out by the U.S. Hunt-Texas Company whose preliminary reports to the YAR Government in San'a' say that confirmed reserves in the area are so large that the YAR could become an oil-rich country in 2 years. The U.S. company is operating in the area on the basis of a concession that, following the confirmed oil discoveries, will culminate in a revenue partnership with the Yemeni Petroleum and Minerals Company. *AS-SIYASAH* has learned that the leak of information on confirmed oil discoveries in the YAR has prompted several international oil companies to submit to the YAR Government applications for concessions and partnerships.

The YAR budget is covered by aid from oil-rich Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, as well as the money transfers of the 1.4 Yemeni expatriates abroad.

President Receives Oil Executive

GF301916 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at the presidium palace this evening, Mr Ray Hunt, chairman of the board of directors of the U.S. Hunt Petroleum Company, and a number of company officials.

Mr Hunt gave the brother leader, the secretary general, a detailed report on the positive results of the production experiments of the first oil well drilled in Ma'rib. Mr Hunt assured the brother leader that those experiments have proven the well's capability to produce 10,000 barrels per day, in addition to producing 50 million cubic feet of natural gas.

Briefs

Official Meets Iranian Charge — Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad al-Iryani received today the charge d'affaires at the Iranian Embassy in San'a' and discussed with him bilateral relations. [Text] [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jul 84 GF]

Outgoing DPRK Envoy — 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president, chairman of People's Constituent Council, and member of the Standing Committee received this morning So Chong-won, DPRK ambassador to San'a' on end of his term. [Summary] [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 84 GF]

Three Explosions Reported in Suez Gulf

NC311216 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1207 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA) — A responsible source at the Prime Minister's Office has stated that ships have reported three explosions while passing through the Suez Gulf. The explosions have not resulted in any incidents or damages worth mentioning. Egyptian authorities immediately took the necessary measures upon receiving this information to ascertain the causes of these explosions. The authorities are also reinforcing measures to secure navigation in the Suez Canal.

Soviet Proposal Called 'Ray of Hope' for Middle East

NC301426 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Bahiy ad-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Middle East Crisis and the Lost Initiatives"]

[Text] The Soviet Union issued a statement in which it defines its views regarding the Middle East situation. The statement calls for convening an international conference in which all parties concerned should participate. These parties are: Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the PLO, in addition to the United States and the Soviet Union.

This step by Moscow indicates the Kremlin's interest in the tense Middle East situation. This step has been welcomed by the area's states, and has received the support of every peacelover throughout the world. Moreover, it is a constructive addition to efforts being exerted by the United Nations to convene an international conference to solve the crisis in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly the famous Resolution 242.

Despite the extreme importance of the Soviet proposal under the current circumstances, it has come 7 years too late. Many things could have changed in the Middle East had this Soviet proposal come at the right time. The most important characteristic in the political game is precise timing in taking appropriate measures at the appropriate time. We know that Egypt, after President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, called for convening an international conference to be attended directly or indirectly by all parties concerned with the Middle East crisis. In view of the political changes this visit created within Israel and the United States, these two countries agreed to convening this international conference at the MENA House in Cairo with the attendance of all the parties proposed by yesterday's Soviet statement. However, the reaction to the Jerusalem visit by the Soviet Union and Arab parties was that the Egyptian initiative was not in the interest of peace as much as it was in the interest of Israel. Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the PLO, and the Soviet Union therefore refused to respond to Egypt's call for participating in the conference.

Although the international conference proposed by Egypt was held at the fixed time and place, because it was confined to Egypt, Israel, and the United States, it was deprived of any meaning and did not result in anything new because those who would truly benefit from its convocation did not attend. We would like to put on record that the refusal of the Arab states and the Soviet Union to participate in the MENA House conference drove the peace process in a new direction that the Egyptian leadership had not considered. We do not want to turn back to the pages of the past, but we do want to say that the international, regional, and local circumstances under which the Soviet Union has made its proposal are completely different from the circumstances under which Egypt convened the MENA House conference. It suffices to point out that Israel and the United States accepted Egypt's call for convening an international conference in which all parties concerned with the crisis would participate, including the PLO and the Soviet Union; but, Israel and the United States have now rejected the UN proposal for convening an international conference to solve the crisis. In other words, the Soviet proposal does not represent anything more than the proposal submitted by the UN secretary general — a proposal that has no possibility of being implemented — whereas the Soviet Union rejected the Egyptian proposal, which had every possibility of succeeding.

We are not crying over spilled milk, but only remind that when emotion and self interest enter the political game they spoil it completely. However, because politics is a game, as they say, we see in the Soviet proposal a ray of hope on the densely clouded course of the Middle East crisis.

'Abd al-Majid on Gulf War, Relations With Moscow

NC301058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Jul (MENA) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has said that Egypt is following very closely and responsibly the developments in the Arab region and that it has a comprehensive strategic concept of what is going on in the area. In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper *AS-SIYASAH* published today, the Egyptian minister said that Egypt warns of the dangers surrounding the region and that Egypt had warned about the situation in Lebanon before it exploded. He added that Egypt feels the gravity of the Gulf war and its damages. He pointed out that Egypt has stood by Iraq when it felt that there was a danger threatening it and the integrity of its territories. He said Egypt is at the same time eager to see a comprehensive settlement and it was on this basis that President Husni Mubarak undertook his initiative to stop the fighting between the two countries and achieve peace.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that Egypt will seek, with all its political capability and with the participation of the major countries in the Nonaligned Movement, to gain support for this initiative which seeks to achieve peace and stability in the Gulf. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that President Husni Mubarak pays much attention to purifying the Arab atmosphere and to removing the dangers from the Gulf. He added that the Egyptian move will emanate from this understanding and this comprehensive concept. He said that in addition to this, President Mubarak is paying increased attention to relations with the nonaligned countries and to giving them a strong push that will restore their large role in addition to Egypt's interest in the Islamic countries and the OAU.

He noted that Egypt will attend the meetings of the Islamic foreign ministers in September and will also attend during the same month the new UN session. He said that this will be an opportunity to meet with a number of Arab and international personalities to discuss what is of interest to the region and problems in the Arab and international arenas. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stressed Egypt's concern with the Gulf's security and safety and with restoring stability to this region which is an important and strategic part of Egyptian and Arab security.

As to the restoration of Egyptian-Soviet diplomatic relations, Dr 'Ismat said that this is a natural and normal measure between two countries who previously had diplomatic relations. He said that in his opinion, the matter is no more than the return of matters to their natural course. He expressed his confidence that there will be no effect or repercussions on Egyptian-U.S. relations because these are based on mutual confidence and respect for each country's sovereignty in adopting its political decision.

The Egyptian foreign minister denied that the Palestinian problem is frozen. He said that we, as Arabs, must be ready and serious in reorganizing the Arab and Palestinian house. Concluding his interview, he said that we have supported President Reagan's initiative as a way to set the Palestinian issue in motion.

Ghali on International Mideast Conference

NC301950 Cairo MENA in English 1930 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Paris, July 30 (MENA) — Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that an international conference on the Middle East cannot be held unless it is preceded by East-West detente. In an interview with the French *LIBERATION* newspaper, Ghali added that dialogue between the two blocs should be one of the preparatory steps for such a conference. He said Egypt would support any joint stand reached by Arab unanimity if it takes into account the realities of the local situation.

In another interview with *LE MONDE* newspaper, Dr Ghali said that Egyptian-Israeli relations would not change unless Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon and Israel changed its present practices against the Palestinians. He added that both the Likud and Labour Parties are out to annex Arab lands.

KUNA: Mubarak to Present Gulf Initiative in SFRY

LD301613 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Jul (KUNA) — KUNA has learned here today that in the course of his visit to Yugoslvia which will start next Monday, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will put forward, during his talks with Djuranovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, the initiative to stop the Iraq-Iran war.

The agency also learned that President Mubarak will put forward during the talks the Egyptian initiative to stop this war and will invite Yugoslavia and the nonaligned countries to support this initiative which aims at reconciliatin between Iraq and Iran through peaceful means and in a way that will preserve the rights and dignity of the two conflicting countries.

Sources of a nonaligned country informed KUNA here today that thanks to the current president of the Nonaligned Movement, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, this initiative will be put forward in the name of the nonaligned countries.

Ghurbal on U.S. Policies, Mondale's Stands

NC310702 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA) — Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, Egypt's ambassador in Washington, stated that Egypt has warned the U.S. Administration about the danger of being led into a binding relationship ['alaqat tarabutiyah] with Israel at the expense of the Arabs, because this cannot be one of the factors of stability in the area, particularly in view of Israel's ambitions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. In statements to *AL-JUMHURIYAH* published in today's issue, Dr Ghurbal said that the United States has informed Egypt that the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel is very limited and falls within the framework of consultations and naval maneuvers to confront any possible Soviet danger to the area. In other words, Washington explained that its relationship with Israel is not directed against any Arab side. Washington also stressed its commitment to Reagan's initiative and to reactivating it.

Dr Ashraf Ghurbal described the Democratic Party's campaign to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem as an act of seeking Jewish votes, and said that the party's policy is not different now than before. He said we should differentiate between election forums and propaganda and the responsibilities of governing which urge caution in dealing with such a measure. The Egyptian ambassador in Washington said in his statements to *AL-JUMHURIYAH* that there is no doubt that Israel will remind Walter Mondale, the Democratic candidate in the U.S. presidential elections, of his promises to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, if he succeeds in the elections. But this does not necessarily mean the implementation of these promises because the responsibilities and calculations of the presidency are different from the responsibility of statements made to gain votes.

He said: We do not forget that when Mondale was vice president during former President Carter's administration, he strongly objected to the stands of former [Israeli] Prime Minister Begin at Camp David.

Dr Ghurbal stressed that what Egypt is interested in is that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are met.

Kampuchea's Sihanouk, 'Abd al-Majid Hold Talks

NC301933 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] A joint statement will be issued Wednesday [1 August] on the talks held by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, prime minister of the Kampuchean coalition government, with President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian officials. Prince Sihanouk held talks with Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. The talks were attended by 'Umran ash-Shafi'i, assistant foreign minister; Ihab Surur, Egyptian ambassador to Thailand, who is also accredited to the Kampuchean Democratic Government; and Adviser Ahmad Subhi.

It was learned that Prince Sihanouk expressed his appreciation and gratitude to President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people for their support of the Kampuchean coalition government. He explained recent developments in the Kampuchean issue. He asked Egypt, because of its notable international status, to continue its support for the Kampuchean issue, and to continue explaining it to world opinion.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expounded on the developments in the Middle East situation and on Egypt's efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region, as well as its endeavors to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

'Ali Decision Creates Economic, Investment Committees

NC301527 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today issued a decision forming the Higher Committee for Policies and Economic Affairs under his chairmanship. The committee will comprise the deputy prime minister of defense and war production; the foreign minister, and the ministers of finance, planning, economy, Cabinet affairs, and administrative development.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali also issued another decision forming the Higher Committee for Investment under his chairmanship. The committee will comprise the minister of state for war production; and the ministers of finance, reconstruction, electricity, planning, agriculture, economy, industry, petroleum, Cabinet affairs, and administrative development.

briefs

Oil Prices Unchanged — Cairo, July 30 (MENA) — The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) has decided to stabilize prices of Egyptian oil of all sorts for the fourth successive month after a month-by-month review of world oil markets, which have witnessed a fallback in crude prices. EGPC Foreign Trade Director General Hammad Ayyub said that the cutdown in world oil prices will have no effect on the export prices of the six kinds of Egyptian crude in August. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1638 GMT 30 Jul 84 NC]

New Venezuelan Ambassador — Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA) — Jose Arimiro Martinez Ramirez, Venezuela's new ambassador in Cairo, arrived in Cairo early today to assume his post as his country's plenipotentiary ambassador to Egypt. He stated on arrival that he had earlier been Venezuela's ambassador to Morocco and Tunisia and that his last post was as his country's ambassador to the Gabon. [Excerpts] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jul 84 NC]

Saddam Husayn Awards Medals, Addresses Fighters

JN301703 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said that the number of volunteers in the Armed Forces has increased since the war began. After awarding medals of valor today to a group of fighters for their distinguished courage in confronting the Iranian aggression, the president added that, although the war is still going on, a large number of people are joining military colleges and institutes every year, unlike the situation which existed before the war.

President Saddam Husayn pointed out that the number of fighters who are awarded medals of valor is increasing with every battle, although the criteria for awarding medals have become more strict. He added that the number of distinguished brave men increases with time and that those who are awarded three valor medals will become Saddam Husayn's friends, noting that a committee has been formed to draft the formula for this new tradition.

Eighteen 1st lieutenants, 57 lieutenants, and 24 fighters of various ranks were awarded medals today.

Communique No 1,542 Notes Shelling of Khurmal

JN301621 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Communique No 1,542 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 30 July 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our heroic Armed Forces, while continuing their valiant defense of the homeland, honor, and sovereignty, will remain loyal to the principles of the great 17-30 July revolution, with the help of Almighty God. They will also continue to emphasize their determination and ability to repulse the greedy and suspect enemies. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Using artillery and other weapons, one of our forward units pounded enemy positions and troops in the operational area east of Basra, killing three, wounding others, destroying one infantry position, and setting other enemy positions on fire.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships today carried out daring and successful combat missions against enemy concentrations and positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits. All of our helicopters returned safely, praise be to God.

3. Fresh groups of Iranians, fleeing the persecution and oppression of the criminal Khomeyniite regime, sought refuge with our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield. They were safely evacuated to the rear. Elsewhere in the same sector, one enemy soldier was killed, and one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed. The occupants of the observation post were killed.

4. Two were killed and two infantry positions and one hardware stockpile were destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. At 1140 today the spiteful Iranian enemy shelled the village of Khurmal in As-Sulaymaniyah Governorate with heavy artillery, demolishing one house.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 July 1984

Minister of Defense Views War With Iran

PM301451 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Jul 84 p 3

[Interview with Minister General 'Adnan Khayrallah by Jamal al-Ghitani "On Iraq-Iran Front line" — date not given]

[Excerpts] I accompanied the Iraqi Defense Minister on a tour of the front lines and interviewed him as he personally flew his helicopter during stops, sometimes only a few meters from the lines dividing the Iraqi and Iranian forces, where massive concentrations and military fortifications can clearly be seen.

I told the Iraqi defense minister: I must begin my question by asking about the expected Iranian offensive which the world press talked about.

General 'Adnan Khayrallah said: From my military position I can say that the military option for Iran has become something of the past. Following our forces' pullback to the international borders the situation for Iran became more difficult, particularly since Iraq has responded to and accepted good offices to end the war, shown an inclination toward peace, and displayed willingness to come to the negotiating table in order to resolve outstanding problems. So what is the Iranian fighter sacrificing his life for? For our part we Iraqis are defending our territory. The Iraqis harbor evil against nobody; they offer peace at every opportunity and wish to live with their neighbors in peace and on the basis of conditions fair to all parties. If Iran continues to imagine that it will score a decisive victory against Iraq if it concentrates 1 million fighters or more, it will suffer heavy losses as it did in the battles east of Basra in July 1982 and as it continues to suffer to this day. Its losses are increasing and escalating from one battle to the next.

[Al-Ghitani] Can it be said that the Iraqi military command has defined the location and direction of the expected Iranian attack?

[Khayrallah] Throughout the war we have not been surprised by a single Iranian attack, even with the zero hour for some battles being fixed the same day. We have become experts on how they think and act. This is a general feeling among the fighters on the battlefield. For this reason I can say that we have advance information about the coming attack and details of the concentration of forces immediately confronting our forces and in depth.

[Al-Ghitani] Is the delaying of the attack due to the efforts being made by the Iranian Army to obtain weapons from various sources? According to reports, a certain socialist country is supplying Iran with 120 aircraft, and Israeli arms continue to pour into Iran.

[Khayrallah] During the war Iran has been looking for additional sources of strength to boost its forces. It has the right to do so regardless of the means to which it resorts. But there are facts in building armed forces which cannot be ignored. For example, in the United States it takes 5 years to create a new armored division. Aircraft take even longer. It is not enough to receive arms. What is important is to absorb and master the arms.

There are Israeli weapons on the Iranian side. Unfortunately there are also Arab wepaons, which the Iranians have obtained from Libya and Syria. We know that Iran's armament under the Shah's regime was Western. During the first stage of the war we fought against British-made Chieftain tanks and U.S. M-48, M-47, and M-60 tanks and captured 175-mm and 155-mm self-propelled guns which are now in the war booty exhibition. During the second year of the war we began to find in the battlefield some East European T-55 and T-62 tanks as well as Soviet MB combat vehicles, Kalashnikov rifles, and RPGs. These, unfortunately, bore Syrian Armed Forces insignia. As for Libya, it has supplied Iran with 200 tanks. It is sad and unfortunate for Arab arms to be given to a foreign enemy in order to kill Arabs.

[Al-Ghitani] According to recent reports the Iraqi Army has been receiving modern weapons and long-range missiles. Do you have plans to destroy targets deep in Iranian territory?

Smiling, Khayrallah replied: Now you are talking like a devious journalist and not like a friend. However, I can tell you that we are now capable of hitting targets beyond what Iran expects. Shortly we will receive highly effective deterrent weapons enabling us to deal effective blows far behind the Iranian lines.

[Al-Ghitani] What about the siege of Khark Island?

[Khayrallah] Iran or other quarters think that the war can go on as it is while Iran goes on exporting its oil without hindrance. We, however, are well aware of this game and absolutely will not allow it to continue. Our blockade of Iran's imports and exports is part of this plan. We will continue to tighten the siege. Our ability to do so by air and by sea has been enhanced on the technical and implementation levels. We shall force Iran to reach a decision and inflict real damage on it until it stops its aggression and respects our rights.

[Al-Ghitani] Has the Iraqi Air Force been able to hit Khark Island itself?

[Khayrallah] Yes, we have hit Khark Island and the docks. We are still striking at it. If Iranian intransigence increases, we will destroy it completely. We have the potential and the ability.

At the next stop I asked Khayrallah about the recent Iranian attack in February and the difference in tactics from previous attacks. Did this indicate the presence of foreign experts?

The Iraqi defense minister replied: It became evident to us that the planner of these battles was not Iranian. The planner was a detached party who far from understood the reality. The offensive plan was unreal; it required a vast and strong modern army. But the plan was carried out by small groups of people who did not know their position on the map. We realized that the planner was different from the executor. The plan was ambitious on paper, but the outcome of its execution was tragic. I saw hundreds of thousands of young men pushed into the marshes and gorges; their decision was inhuman. I regard that decision as treachery to the Iranian young men and far removed from Islamic teachings. Later we received reliable information that the Israelis took part in planning the Iranian offensive in Al-Ahwar.

Press Reaction to Soviet Middle East Proposals

AR-RA'Y Praises Soviet Bid

JN310732 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Soviet Peace Document," *AR-RA'Y* says: The Soviet Union has announced what can be called a peace document that would extricate the Middle East crisis from the impasse which is the result of the Zionist policy on one hand and the lack of U.S. seriousness on the other. If it is natural that the Zionist enemy rejected the document in accordance with its policy that rejects peace, justice, and stability in the region, it is unnatural and illogical not to hear anything about Washington's opinion. Although the United States has rejected any call for convening an international conference for peace and insisted on unilaterally searching for a settlement, or to be more specific, searching for the means to impose an unjust settlement, we believe that the Soviet document represents a balanced and serious working paper and reflects sincere intentions concerned about peace, justice, and stability. The Zionist rejection of the Soviet peace document is based on the Zionist insistence that the Middle East crisis is a crisis of borders between the Zionist entity and the Arab states. It is also based on ignoring the crux of this crisis, which is the Palestine question. As a result of this rejection, the Zionist enemy ignored the international community's will, the UN resolutions and recommendations, and any effort to deal with the crisis, on the basis that it is the result of the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian land and people.

AR-RA'Y concludes: We emphasize what is contained in the Soviet document regarding the parties that must participate in the international peace conference, because ignoring the PLO and the Soviet and European roles simply means that the Arabs should accept what the United States and the Israeli entity seek to impose on them through force. Although it has achieved military victories, force cannot bring about peace. Moreover, military victories cannot achieve stability, but open the door for more wars and loss of justice and stability. This will keep the region's situation on the brink of explosion at any movement and under all circumstances. It seems that this is the objective of the U.S. policy which is biased toward the Israeli entity. This is also what has always been required by the extremist mentality that governs Zionism as a racist, expansionist, and hostile movement.

JORDAN TIMES Lauds Initiative

JN310839 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jul 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Soviets Step Forward"]

[Text] Middle East politicians and observers are busy asking themselves questions about the Soviet Union's new call for an international conference to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. What is new in the proposal? Why make it now? What is important about the timing and the content? Why make it at all, considering its limited chances of success in the face of American and Israeli opposition to the idea?

Already the Israelis have called the Soviet proposal a "propaganda ploy" by Moscow. And a U.S. State Department spokeswoman, Anita Stockman, could not see where Soviet participation in such a conference "would be helpful."

Very few people seem to be willing to believe the TASS statement that said the plan was raised because of Soviet concern over the remaining explosive situation in the Middle East, althought most agree that the situation here is fast getting out of control. But for the sake of argument, let us assume that Moscow does indeed have other considerations for issuing this call at this stage.

The Israeli elections, the U.S. elections, the stalemate in East-West relations, the new support that the idea of an international conference on the Middle East has just gained from the U.N. and France, the firmly-held conviction by the Arab side that only such a conference could help the peace process progress, are all worthy considerations for the Soviets to make their presence and concern felt. What is wrong if Moscow says it is genuinely concerned about the explosiveness of the situation in the area and wants to do something to contain the looming danger?

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko at the U.N. in 1981. One of the first questions that Shamir asked Mr Claude Cheysson, the French foreign minister, when the latter visited him earlier this month was about President Mitterrand's visit to the Soviet Union in June and his impressions there. And Shamir is on record as saying Israel was ready to resume ties with Moscow, but that it was up to the Soviets to initiate such a move because they broke relations with Irael after the 1967 war. Add to that, that Avi Pazner, the Israeli prime minister's spokesman, indicated a need to restore diplomatic relations between the two countries before any discussion of the new proposal could take place and we will have a good hint about some kind of a movement in the political scene of the Middle East. Maybe the new Soviet move should not be overestimated, but it definitely is not something that should be overlooked — or underestimated.

Parliamentarian on Talks With Syrian Leaders

JN301524 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 28 Jul 84 p 27

[Hani Khayr dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpts] The Jordanian parliamentary delegation's visit to Damascus has been the focus of Jordanian and Arab public attention, the topic of Arab and foreign political commentaries, and the subject of international observers' analyses.

After the visit, *AL-MUSTAQBAL* asked Rizq al-Batayinah, a delegation member and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Jordanian House of Representatives, about the meetings, the expected results, and President al-Asad's stand on the normalization of Jordanian-Syrian relations.

Representative al-Batayinah said: We went to Syria hoping that relations between the two fraternal countries will return to normal. Damascus received us cheerfully; our Syrian brothers received us with open minds and hearts. Our dialogue with the Syrian officials was sincere and fraternal. It shows awareness of the delicate stage through which our Arab nation is passing. We found the Syrian leaders and people determined to assume their national and pan-Arab role and to confront the challenges and plots facing our Arab nation.

He added: During our meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, we heard an explanation of the political situation in the Arab and international arenas. His excellency the president expressed his concern for and assertion of pan-Arab principles and the need to consolidate Arab solidarity and to overcome bilateral differences within a strategy that is clear in its dimensions and objectives. His excellency the president showed special concern for Syrian-Jordanian relations, which constitute a basic principle, strong backbone, and impregnable front in the face of the Zionist invasion and expansion. His excellency said that the chill which dominates these relations now was not an inevitable result of the Iraqi-Iranian war; this chill appeared before the outbreak of the war, the dangers and dimensions of which we have explained to fraternal Arabs, especially to Brother His Majesty King Husayn. The president also said that he explained the catastrophes and suffering which this war will cause for the warring brothers and friends as well as the dangers which will affect our Arab nation's interests. The president said this war will weaken and divide our nation; it will drain its resources, harm its economy, and weaken its power.

Rizq al-Batayinah continued: We understood from his excellency the president that Syrian political and military strategy is based on the fact that the power of the Arab countries surrounding the state of aggression stems from Syria's power and impregnability. Proceeding from this fact, President al-Asad said that Syrian- Jordanian detente is a pan-Arab need imposed by the Arab nation's interests in order to confront Israeli aggression and to abort its expansionist schemes.

Regarding the legitimacy and independence of Palestinian decisionmaking, his excellency the president said that the Palestinian cause is the crux of Syrian strategy. We are concerned about this cause and we consider it one of our priority causes. We are concerned about Palestinian legitimacy within the National Charter and resolutions. Our policy toward this cause is not affected by the individuals' positions and characteristics, because we are interested in the sound course of this cause within a pan-Arab strategy that is clear in its dimensions and objectives.

Al-Jumayyil Briefed on Karami Saudi Arabia Visit

NC301116 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil today met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who briefed the president on the outcome of his talks with senior Saudi officials, led by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The Lebanese-Saudi talks focused on political and economic themes. Politically, Lebanon is seeking the good offices of Saudi Arabia with Washington for the sake of evacuating the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon; and economically, Lebanon is seeking the Saudi contribution toward its reconstruction and development.

The president and the prime minister assessed the successful steps made on the security level in Beirut yesterday. They also reviewed what is left of the security plan to be implemented preparatory to reopening the crossing points and the major and side roads during this week. The meeting lasted until 1100.

Karami Comments on Search for Arab Aid

PM300955 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jul 84 pp 1,2

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Rashid Karami, apparently in Damascus, by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab from Jiddah — date not given]

[Excerpts] Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami said that Saudi Arabia's continued support for the salvation of Lebanon "has given us strong confidence and belief in our action and in our right to restore stability and security and to implement the salvation program." He said that Lebanon highly appreciates the Kingdom's stand in supporting and backing every step taken by Lebanon, beginning with the Geneva and Lausanne conferences and continuing to this day, which all augur well and point toward a return to normality. We have sensed this Saudi support at every stage we have been through, he added.

Karami yesterday began an Arab tour by visiting Damascus and meeting President Hafiz al-Asad and senior officials. He is to visit Saudi Arabia within the next few days.

He said in a telephone interview that the reconstruction of the state, the rehabilitation of its citizens, the restoration of the nation's cohesiveness, the building of a national Army that enjoys the confidence of the people and effectively contributes to the consolidation of government and the protection of citizens, and the curing of all the state's ills are all important problems that must be tackled, and the obstacles in the way of their solution must be overcome in order to achieve national unity.

Prime Minister Karami, who is looking to obtain substantial material aid from the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in order to rebuild Lebanon, said that his visit to the Kingdom stemmed from the close and strong fraternal ties and common interests between Lebanon and the Kingdom.

Questioned as to the most important matters he discussed with President al-Asad, he replied: My visit is in fact aimed at evaluating the situation from its various aspects and reviewing the steps taken so far, particularly with regard to the security plan. It is also intended to discuss the political situation with a view to determining the practical steps that have to be taken to ease the situation, as well as to discuss the situation in the area in general and to decide what action to take in coordination between the two sister-states, particularly with regard to the steps that must be taken in Lebanon to facilitate and speed up the Israeli evacuation from the south, the western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya.

Asked about what is required on the Arab and international levels to help Lebanon liberate its soil from Israeli occupation, he said: In fact we are suffering acutely from our current state, since parts of our territory are still occupied and the Israeli enemy is continuing his inhuman actions against Lebanese citizens in the south, the western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya. We are proud of the national resistance which is opposing this hateful occupation. He added: What is happening in Lebanon is a very grave and serious thing. Lebanon looks to its Arab brothers to help it liberate its territory from the Israeli occupation. For this reason we will shortly be asking our brothers in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere to support us and aid us in all fields, particularly the international field, so that we can realize the liberation of our country and Lebanon can resume its role in its own interest and the interest of its Arab family and of the whole world.

RFL on Saudi Conditions for Monetary Aid

NC301727 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1645 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] It has been learned that Saudi Arabia, which previously linked its monetary help to the security situation in Lebanon, now links it to security and the religion of the person who will be responsible for managing and spending the Saudi money. In other words, he should be a Muslim of the Sunnite sect [words indistinct].

It has also been learned that Premier Karami's visit to Saudi Arabia was to reinforce the Sunnite friendship in both Lebanon and the Arab world.

During his meeting with the Saudi officials, Prime Minister Karami also discussed the pressures to which the Sunnites are subjected in Iqlim al-Kharrub, West Beirut, and Tripoli from the Druze, the Shi'ites, and the 'Alawites. The Saudi efforts tended toward the unification of the Sunnite ranks in order to face the other Islamic trends in Lebanon.

Karami's AL-MUSTAQBAL Statements Reported

JN271852 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] In a statement to the weekly magazine *AL-MUSTAQBAL*, which is issued in Paris, Rashid Karami has stressed that his government receives continuous support and encouragement to resume the march of the security plan and reinforce the steps that have so far been taken to eliminate Lebanon's ordeal.

Karami said that his government will continue to achieve its task. He also stressed that the liberation of southern Lebanon is among his government's priorities. He said that sovereignty is an indivisible whole. He added: We reject occupation and we will act on all levels to evacuate Israel from Lebanon. We hope that all of our friends understand this position and will facilitate our reaching the aspired end.

Karami Cited Further on Talks With Al-Asad

JN271955 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Prime Minister Rashid Karami's statement to Syrian television correspondent Muhammad Majdhub at a news conference held in Damascus on 26 July; carried within the weekly program "Spotlight on Events" — videorecorded]

[Text] [Muhammad Majdhub] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, welcome to your second homeland, Damascus. Mr Prime Minister, the Lebanese national unity government has taken several steps forward on the course of security and of liberating Lebanon from the Israeli invasion. How do you view what has been achieved so far and where does Lebanon stand now?

[Rashid Karami] There is no doubt that the steps that have been taken since the formation of the national unity government are important, because they have produced results which deserve everyone's appreciation. I mean by this the political accord embodied in the policy statement for which the government won the Chamber of Deputies' confidence. This was followed by the Cabinet's meeting in Bikfayya. That meeting agreed on the general framework, which can be summed up as follows: security, liberation, reconstruction, and reform. Then came the security plan whose implementation began a few days ago. The initial phase of this plan has achieved its purposes.

Yesterday, the Cabinet decided on the next steps. These are: unifying the Army brigades that are stationed on both sides of the contact line, canceling the contact line itself, and consequently establishing the legitimate forces' control over that part of Beirut. The government's main objective is to restore the state's authority and to preserve the unity of the institutions, people, and land. All of these achievements are the result of the political accord. We will of course continue the salvation process until normal life is restored.

During my meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad today, I conveyed our ideas and told him about the developments taking place in our country. Our common interests call for such continuous consultations. The distinguished relations between the two twin countries also necessitate such consultations under all circumstances, especially after national unity has been entrenched in Lebanon.

We are pursuing the same course and policy in order to achieve the same objectives. I have sensed the president's support and blessing for all of the steps that we have taken and that we will take — hence our common concern on all topics, including the need to coordinate our work and policies in order to serve the higher national interests.

Fraternal Syria is concerned about the subject of the Israeli withdrawal from the south, from western Al-Biqa', and from Rashayya. This explains its interest in the general plan that the competent military committee is now examining. Syria is interested in the liberation of Lebanon, the restoration of Lebanon's full sovereignty, and the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli side. We are cooperating in all of these fields, because this is our common destiny.

You are all undoubtedly aware of Syria's support for the Lebanese march right from the beginning. This stems from a sense of responsibility and from the common awareness of the importance of this phase and of the need to cooperate in all of the stages we are going through. Therefore, I can confirm that our viewpoints were in 100 percent agreement. We will maintain these relations and this cooperation, because it is in our common interest. I will not be disclosing a secret when I state that President Hafiz al-Asad has said, with his usual frankness: We are with you. Everything that serves the interests of unified, liberated Lebanon is our common responsibility. We are ready to give everything you want.

Minister Skaf Returns From Damascus 30 Jul

NC301746 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Joseph Skaf, minister of information and acting interior minister, returned to Beirut at 1630 today after a visit to Damascus. He held discussions with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq ash- Har', and Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh.

Minister Skaf described his visit and that of the Al-Biqa' deputies to Damascus as successful and positive. He added: We received a positive response from President al-Asad, Vice President Khaddam, and all officials we met.

Comments on Talks

NC301945 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Following the return of the Al-Biqa' deputies to Beirut from Damascus, Minister Joseph Skaf said Syria believes that the security plan should include all Lebanon. He added that the Syrian brothers believe that this plan, whose implementation has begun in Beirut, must include all Lebanon. He said Syria is prepared to participate in everything that would restore Lebanon's stability and security.

Minister Skaf further said: We discussed the reopening of the Beirut-Damascus highway. The Syrian side believes that the Lebanese Army should assume security duties from Beirut up to Sawfar and that the Syrian side should provide security for the remaining part of the highway.

Concerning the information media, Skaf said that the discussions dealt with the question of repairing the [radio] transmission stations in Al-'Urbaniyah, Al-Knaysah, and Sir ad-Dinniyah, and that the Syrian brothers promised to facilitate the arrival of technical teams and to provide the help necessary to repair these stations.

He added that the Syrians expressed their full support for the reunification of Lebanon's official information media.

Skaf further said that the discussions dealt with the question of the kidnapped and missing persons and that it was agreed that this humanitarian issue must be settled as soon as possible.

In conclusion, Minister Skaf said Syria promised to help facilitate the marketing of agricultural goods from the areas under Israeli occupation in the western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya, as well as other Lebanese agricultural goods.

VOAL Reports Soviet Proposals on Mideast Conflict

NC291719 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] The Soviet Union today called for an international conference to settle the conflict in the Middle East.

In a statement published by TASS today, the Soviet Union said that the conference must be attended by all the parties concerned in the conflict in addition to the United States and the Soviet Union and other states provided that the participating states agree to attend the conference.

The Soviet statement added that the objective of the conference must be the return of the territories which Israel has occupied since 1967, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and the return of East Jerusalem to the Arabs.

VOL Cites Soviet Embassy Source on Formulas

NC301759 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources said today that Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, will arrive in Beirut on Friday on an official 2-day visit to Lebanon.

A source at the Soviet Embassy in Beirut said that his country looks forward to better coordination with Lebanon during the current phase and that it wants Lebanon to remain united, sovereign, free, and independent.

The source affirmed that the Soviet Union cannot possibly support any of the proposed formulas that are designed to partition Lebanon into cantons or to turn it into a federal state.

The Soviet source expressed optimism about the stabilization of the situation in Lebanon following the implementation of the security plan in Greater Beirut.

The source added: This plan has achieved tangible progress, which prompts us to believe that the plan can be implemented in the rest of the areas to ensure security and stability, for which the Lebanese people aspire.

VOL on Phalangist Party Political Bureau Meeting

NC301245 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The Phalangist Party's Political Bureau and Central Council held a meeting chaired by deputy leader Dr Elie Karamah. He reassured the conferees about the health of [party leader] Pierre al-Jumayyil, who will soon chair meetings again. Dr Karamah thanked the Phalangist leader for his confidence in him. He said that Pierre al-Jumayyil is the founder of the party and the creator of a school that teaches discipline and ethics.

During the meeting, discussion dealt with the security plan, which Dr Karamah described as good. Dr Karamah praised the party's and the Lebanese Forces' representative on the [Security Arrangements] Committee. He said that President al-Jumayyil's inspection of the Greater Beirut area has had a positive effect. He affirmed that what has prevented the security plan from failing is the fact that the heavy weapons have been collected, plus the fact that everybody wants calm to return to Lebanon.

Discussing the plan proposed for the mountain and the recent meeting held at the presidential palace in the presence of Minister Junblatt, Dr Karamah indicated that everybody is ready to translate words into deeds. Joseph Abu Khalil proposed that the return of the displaced people to the mountain be preceded by a national reconciliation between the Druzes and the Christians so that they will return under dignified conditions. He noted that Lebanon in the past was founded on a Maronite-Druze political alliance.

A committee has been formed to prepare a program to celebrate the anniversary of the martyrdom of President Bashir al-Jumayyil on 14 September. The committee will submit its proposals to the political bureau.

MONDAY MORNING Interviews Druze Leader

NC301215 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 23-29 Jul 84 pp 31-34

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shaqra, spiritual leader of the Druze community, in Ba'dharan by correspondent Nadim Abu Ghannam — date not given]

[Text] [Ghannam] Former President Camille Sham'un has announced the formation of a Druze-Christian committee. What is the task of this committee?

[Shaqra] I have read about this committee, but I have no details on the subject. President Sham'un may have started talking about the task of this committee before anything concrete has been achieved.

I haven't been informed of the formation of such a panel and, to the best of my knowledge, it hasn't been set up yet.

[Ghannam] But some Christian families have returned to Al-Mashraf and others are slated to return to Ma'asir ash-Shuf in the near future. Isn't this taking place under the auspices of the said committee?

[Shaqra] No, this is in line with a unilateral decision taken by the Progressive Socialist Party.

[Ghannam] What will be the fate of the Christians of the Ash-Shuf who have left their homes and property?

[Shaqra] It was not we who caused them to leave their homes and property, but the "Lebanese Forces," the Phalangist forces who, as is well known, deluded them and told them they were protecting them from Druze domination, whereas in fact the Druze never dominated anyone.

After the defeat of the Phalangists and the "Lebanese Forces," the Christian inhabitants of the Ash-Shuf left the area along with them. Now, there are demands for their return to their villages and homes, but it would be only fair to link the return of (Christian) refugees to the mountains to the return of refugees to other Lebanese areas (from which they have been displaced) since 1975 to this day. The displacement of people from some areas, such as Al-Ashrafiyah, Sinn al-Fil, An-Nab'ah, Ad-Dikwanah, Karantina, and others, preceded the displacement of Christians from the mountains, and the return of only some of the displaced people (to their areas) would not resolve the problem. I have been of the opinion that this issue should be the subject of a thorough study designed to enable all refugees to return to their respective areas. Is it conceivable that some refugees should return to their areas and not others? Would that be fair? It's impossible. Were such a thing to happen, those who return would have neither stability nor peace of mind.

This issue should be given a great deal of attention. It should be studied, the homes which were destroyed should be rebuilt, and then refugees should be allowed to return to their regions. Anything short of that is just wishful thinking and an attempt to throw dust in the eyes.

[Ghannam] How would you assess the security plan applied in Greater Beirut?

[Shaqra] God willing, it will be a successful step, and we hope it will subsequently cover all Lebanese areas so that stability is restored throughout the country. So it is a step we bless and support, hoping it will be extended to other areas with the same success, God willing. But it appears that some parties are blocking the progress of this plan, which makes us less than fully optimistic. If all Lebanese do not realize that they must help the state extend its exclusive authority (over all parts of the country), the security plan will be only (a) temporary (arrangement), that is, a partial solution.

[Ghannam] Which party is trying to block the security plan?

[Shaqra] I listen to the radio and read newspapers. It is clear that the impediments are (emanating from) the eastern area.

[Ghannam] You told us a few months ago that, while rejecting partition, you were in favor of administrative decentralization. Is your position still the same?

[Shaqra] Our position is still the same because this is not a transient matter. It is a subject that has been studied. If there is no decentralization, there will be no justice among the various areas. Administrative decentralization would mean that a citizen residing in a particular area would not have to cover long distances to conduct the necessary formalities in official departments. In the same vein, development projects should be carried out in a fair manner in all regions.

We said — and we maintain — that partition is rejected, whereas (administrative) decentralization is a demand and a necessity. Everyone is demanding this (decentralization), but not everyone is genuine in making this demand because monopolization can make one's vision unclear and unfair, and this is not acceptable. When I advocate administrative decentralization, I mean that justice should be achieved among the citizens and areas of Lebanon, that the Lebanese flag should continue to flutter and the land remain Lebanese. But it is unfair that the south, for example, should remain extremely backward, neglected, and poor while other areas are prospering and all public funds, which are the property of all the people, are spent in one area, such as Keserwan. Therefore, we are demanding (administrative) decentralization so that equality prevails among all regions and all citizens.

[Ghannam] Under the terms of the security plan, the predominantly-Shi'ite 6th Brigade took over West Beirut while the predominantly-Maronite 5th Brigade took over East Beirut. Will a mainly-Druze brigade be deployed in the mountains when the security plan is applied there?

[Shaqra] Why not? An Army (brigade) which takes over a certain area should be made up of natives of this area, because people are still anxious. In other words, had an Army (brigade) they do not trust taken over the eastern area, for example, the Phalangists would have obstructed its mission and prevented its deployment. The same is true for the mountains — for the time being, they will only be at ease about the just Army. Of course, the factional Army will be rejected, as was the case in the past, because the factional Army hit at the mountains and (Beirut's southern) suburbs. It was a resentful Army, not an Army for everyone as they claimed. It was an Army (loyal) to one faction, which took orders from the Phalangists and the "Lebanese Forces," an Army to kill citizens and not a national Army to protect them. I said in the past that it was unacceptable that this Army, whose elements take their salaries from the state treasury which is funded by the Lebanese people, should be with one faction against another. This never happened in any country.

The 6th Brigade is now in charge of security in the western sector (of the capital) and the 5th Brigade is in charge of security in the eastern sector, and the residents of each of these two areas are satisfied with the brigade present i their area. The same goes for the mountains: Only an Army (brigade) about which inhabitants of the area can feel at ease will come there. We did not, and will not, allow the deployment of any other Army (brigade).

We hope that after the necessary reforms have been introduced, the Army will in future be for everybody, as it should be.

[Ghannam] With the presence of a mainly-Shi'ite Army brigade in West Beirut and a mainly-Maronite brigade in East Beirut and the possible deployment of a mainly-Druze brigade in the mountains, aren't we going beyond the administrative decentralization you are advocating to military decentralization, which could also lead to political decentralization, that is, partition?

[Shaqra] We must be realistic, not flatterers or deceivers. The mountain people will only agree to the entry of the Army (brigade) they feel at ease with and which will be just, which will protect citizens, not slaughter them and destroy their homes.

Enough bickering! (What we are demanding is similar to) what happened with the Army (brigade) which entered West Beirut and that which entered East Beirut. The present situation makes this imperative. We hope it will be only (a) temporary (arrangement), pending the reform (of the Army) and the elimination of its factional character. We don't want to consecrate the deployment of the Army on the present sectarian basis — because this would mean, God forbid, that military decentralization has started, and that it will be followed by several other (forms of) decentralization.

Accepting the deployment of the Army as I mentioned earlier, on a temporary basis, is much better than having the bloodshed continue. As I've already said, we reject partition and hope it will not occur.

[Ghannam] When will the security plan be applied in the mountains?

[Shaqra] Soon, as far as I know.

[Ghannam] How would you evaluate Druze-Sunnite relations after the bloody events which occurred in West Beirut earlier this year?

[Shaqra] These were passing events which, as is known, involved two parties, not the Sunnites and the Druze as such. It was a political, partisan issue, and not a sectarian issue at all. We have met with Muslim spiritual leaders and reasserted Muslim cohesion. We considered this issue a passing cloud.

[Ghannam] Will you be meeting with the Sunnite mufti, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, in the near future?

[Shaqra] We like to meet constantly with his eminence the mufti, but communications are difficult and distances are long. That's why we only meet when the need arises and there is an important matter (to discuss).

[Ghannam] Is there a plan to reconstruct the war-ravaged mountain districts?

[Shaqra] This is up to the state, since there's a limit to what individuals can do. It's the state which is responsible for collective action. There reportedly is a reconstruction plan. However, security is now the top-priority issue, and after it is settled, I think that the state will tackle reconstruction and development projects, God willing.

[Ghannam] It is reported that the authorities want to make the truce hold until they see the outcome of the Israeli and America elections and their possible repercussions on the Lebanese scene. Some political "gamblers" are also taking a wait-and-see attitude. Would you comment on that?

[Shaqra] This seems to be the case (and will remain so) as long as we are not convinced of the need for coexistence on one basis of equality and (as long as) we extend our hands to external quarters. We can see this today. There was no need for the "Lebanese Forces" to open an office in Jerusalem, and there was no need for hundreds of Phalangists to receive training from the Israeli Army, as is known. They are doing this in order to resume the fighting or to obtain what they could not get by force. This is a mistake, like the one they committed in the past, when they rejected the advice repeatedly given them. I advised the president of the republic and the former Army commander, telling them when they went astray that it was a historic mistake. The intent was to root out the Druze and displace them from the mountains, but the Druze stood fast and proved their courage, and the tragedy occurred. I wish they had listened to advice and we had not ended up with all this damage and destruction.

Now, frankly, there is no real solution yet. Fanatical Maronites must be convinced that they are like other Lebanese in terms of equality, justice, and rights. If they hold on to the previous erroneous plans, I don't think it will be either in their own interest or in the interest of those who help and back them. I told high-level official quarters that "if you are not fully convinced of the need to revert to the right course, you would be sealing the doom of what remains of this country."

It is now being said that there is no victor, no vanquished. Yes, we agree, but it is not possible that one sect should impose its hegemony by force over all other Lebanese sects. It's just not possible. I told Pierre (al-Jumayyil) and his excellency the president that "if you defeat us, there are those who will come to our aid and restore us to our previous position, and if we defeat you, there are also those who will help you. Let us realize this and stop relying on others."

I gave this example to his excellency the president whch I meant as advice, not a reminder of past wounds: When the French entered this country, some Maronites in the mountains thought the hour had come to avenge the 1860 events. A big sum of money was allocated, and big quantities of arms were distributed to Maronites in all villages, which were of course also inhabited by Druze. There was an agreement between the French and some fanatical Maronites. The issue was raised with Archbishop Bustani, who was in Bayt ad-Din. He turned down the plan. They told him, "how can you, Your Eminence? This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We are strong. When will we crush our rivals and take our revnege if we don't do it now?" The archbishop's answer was: "If your neighbor is all right, you're all right; if we want to be content, our neighbors must be content; but if our neighbors are worried, we will be in trouble. I reject this project." This is the example of the wise man which we gave.

If the fanatical Maronites are thinking of annihilating us, well, they won't be able to — for we will annihilate them.

And if they clamor for revenge, we will evoke our history. We, not they, used to rule Lebanon. But we are not demanding that, and we don't want harm to befall anybody. We are only demanding justice and equality among all Lebanese — that there be no first-class citizens and second-class citizens.

[Ghannam] How would you describe your present relations with the president?

[Shaqra] My relations with his excellency the president were good initially. But during and after the mountain war and what accompanied it in terms of actions which were unacceptable from the human, patriotic, and moral points of view, I said that the president was biased and our relationship came to a standstill; it became cool, and even frosty to a certain extent.

He lately sent me a message of congratulations on the occasion of Id al-Fitr (the feast marking the end of the Moslem fasting holy month of Ramadan). I do appreciate and thank him for this kind gesture to which, God willing, I will respond in kind.

[Ghannam] Would you like to add anything?

[Shaqra] I urge all Lebanese — officials and others — to put an end to this destructive war in our country. I hope we will extend a clean hand and show good will in the service of the country, the welfare of its people and the achievement of justice, equality, and brotherly coexistence among them.

Cease-Fire Fails; Army Positions Shelled

NC302100 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] All the contacts carried out through the Security Arrangements Committee and the security commands to consolidate the cease-fire that was announced at 2035 have failed. The shelling of Suq al-Gharb and the Army positions, particularly the positions of the disengagement forces in the Kamil Hotel, Qal'at al-Hussun, and ('Ayn San'a), was resumed at 2310. The shelling is coming from (Mutall Shimlan) and 'Aytat. Contacts were renewed a short time ago to stop the shelling.

Meanwhile, some automatic weapons fire continues to be heard in the Saqiyat al-Janzir area. We were informed a short time ago that more gunmen are being transported to the area because of the tense atmosphere there.

Amal, SSNP Exchange Fire in Beirut Area

NC301341 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1330 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] At this moment, the town of Kafr Shima is the target of sniper fire from Junblatti positions in Ash-Shuwayfat. The Security Committee is working on a settlement of this deteriorating situation.

Meanwhile, bulldozers are still removing barricades from the demarcation line while the engineering force unit is removing mines. The operation had been impeded by the exchange of fire between the SSNP [Syrian Social Nationalist Party] and the Amal Movement in the Sfayr-Mar Mika'il area this morning.

RFL on Al-Murabitun, PSP Command Activities

NC301642 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The Al-Murabitun [Independent Nasirite Movement] leadership held an extraordinary meeting today, during which it discussed the steps that should be taken to confront the continuing onslaught of Junblatt followers in West Beirut. It was learned afterward that committees were formed to coordinate and unify efforts with the other Sunnite armed organizations. Other committees were formed to deal with military training and with improving capabilities to confront the socialist gunmen.

At a recent meeting, the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Military Command ordered some of its men to join their military centers in West Beirut and asked officials there to be cautious and prepared for any military incidents.

The PSP Command summoned the military officials in the mountain to ask them why they had not adhered to the cease-fire in the mountain late last week. The PSP Command also asked why they had given false information that led to the deterioration of the security situation in the mountain after the Palestinians in 'Aytat and Kayfun shelled Lebanese Army positions and did not abide by the cease-fire.

Al-Murabitun, Junblatt Followers Clash

NC302008 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1950 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] A report just received says that clashes have been taking place for a short time now between the al-Murabitun [Independent Nasirite Movement] and Junblatt followers in a number of West Beirut's quarters. Rockets and automatic weapons are being used in the clashes. According to preliminary information, the clashes broke out after an attempt was made to assassinate an Al-Murabitun official.

Nationalists Call for 'National Democratic Front'

JN290713 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] Beirut — The leaders of the Lebanese nationalist forces and parties have supported the establishment of a national democratic front which will assume the task of confronting Zionist occupation in southern Lebanon. They announced that this front should also lead the struggle for the implementation of a political program for immediate reform that will achieve equality and democratic liberties for all Lebanese and preserve the Arabism of Lebanon and the unity of its territories.

Reports have quoted Comrade 'Asim Qansuh, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, as saying that the formation of this front is an urgent task that must be shouldered by all Lebanese nationalists in order to organize national action and to deal with the dangers of sectarian sedition. Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, also affirmed the need to unite the nationalist forces in Lebanon against internal and external plots. George Hawi, leader of the

Lebanese Communist Party, emphasized the importance of forming this front to safeguard the gains that have been achieved with the departure of the Multinational Force from Beirut and the cancellation of the 17 May agreement.

Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, also welcomed the formation of such a front in order to confront the Zionist plot. The front's main task, he said, should be to liberate southern Lebanon, western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya, to support the Lebanese nationalist resistance, and to build a fair society for all Lebanese without any discrimination.

Movement Leader Issues Warning to Governor

NC292009 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] Shaykh Hassan al-Bitar, leader of the Prophet's Followers Movement [harakat atba' ar-rasul], claimed that he was behind the blowing up of the car of Dr 'Ali Jabir, member of the Amal Movement Command Council in the south, that he sought the expulsion of scholar Muhammad Hasan al-Amin, and that he addressed warnings to several southern personages, including the governor, to leave the south. He said that the deadline [for the departure of these people] has expired and that he is not responsible for what may happen in the future.

Marj 'Uyun Radio Calls for Infantry Volunteers

JN301354 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The following is an announcement issued by the army of southern Lebanon command: The army of southern Lebanon command announces that it requires volunteer infantry men. Recruitment dates are first, second, and third August 1984. Those interested are requested to report to the recruiting committee on these dates in Marj 'Uyun, the Khayrallah Salamah barracks, between 0800 - 1200.

Recruits must have held Lebanese citizenship for at least 10 years, must be physically fit, and must have copies of their individual identification papers which are not more than one month old, together with four photographs.

Successful volunteers will be enrolled in the Khayrallah Salamah barracks on 13 August 1984. This notice will be announced twice a day as of this date.

[Signed] Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the army of southern Lebanon. Marj 'Uyun, on 27 July 1984.

Resistance Attacks Israeli Position in Marj 'Uyun

NC301121 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters at dawn today attacked an Israeli forces' position in Duhur Dibbin in the Marj 'Uyun district, using machine guns. No information is yet available on the results of the attack.

Briefs

New Yar Ambassador— In his capacity as foreign minister, Prime Minister Rashid Karami tonight received at his house in 'Ayn at-Tin, YAR Ambassador Ahmad al-Mutawakkil, who was accompanied by YAR Charge d'Affaires Rashid 'Ali 'Aqlan. The prime minister received from the ambassador a copy of his credentials. [Excerpt] [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jul 84 NC]

New Swiss Ambassador — President Amin al-Jumayyil this morning received the credentials of new Swiss Ambassador to Lebanon (Paul Andre Ramisar). [Summary] [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Jul 84 NC]

USSR Peace Proposals Contrasted With U.S. Stance

JN301442 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Jibarah al-Barghuti commentary in "On the Events" program]

[Text] The Soviet Middle East peace program places both the Soviet Union and the United States in the Arab balance. The United States rejects Arab rights and peace, while the Soviet Union considers Middle East peace essential for world peace. Colleague Jibarah al-Barghuti has written the following report:

Yesterday Israel reiterated its rejection of peace in the Middle East. It announced its rejection of the new Soviet proposals that define the fundamentals and pillars of peace as well as international guarantees to establish peace and rid the world of the dangers of one of the most serious hotbeds of tension in the world. World and UN political observers consider the Israeli rejection of the Soviet peace program in the Middle East as an pre-emptive instigation of the United States to renew its rejection of the international conference called for in the Soviet proposals.

A consideration of what the Soviet Union proposed indicates the vast difference between the seriousness of those working for peace and the large-scale operation of deception and misguidance that is led by the Western states under U.S. leadership. At a time when reports stress that the United States is attempting to play down the importance of the Middle East issue by claiming it is not an international but a regional issue that concerns only the disputing parties, the Soviet Union stressed that world peace is directly affected by the Middle East conflict and that peace in this region is the responsibility of the international community as long as the security dangers emanating from the continuation of the Arab-Zionist conflict negatively reflect on world peace.

It becomes clear from the viewpoint of world observers and politicians that the Soviet peace program in the Middle East will frankly expose the stands of the enemies of peace, particularly the stands of the United States, which claims to be a friend of the Arabs although it refuses to recognize Arab rights so long as these rights affect the strategic aims of world Zionism and its pillar, Israel.

The Soviet proposals came at a time when U.S. diplomacy is trying to freeze the situation in the Middle East in an attempt to make the time factor play its role in entrenching Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. The Soviet peace program in the Middle East gives all the Arab states an opportunity to put the Soviet Union and the United States in the Arab balance. The U.S. Administration is eager to support Israel militarily, materially, and politically. It continues to disavow the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and extends funds in support of the Zionist settlement projects. In contrast, one notes the Soviet Union's eagerness to support Arab rights, proceeding from the UN General Assembly resolutions, from the wide international support for the Palestinian Arab people's rights, and from the comprehensive international condemnation of the policy of confiscating others' territory by force.

At a time when the United States is striving to drag the Arabs into unilateral, capitulatory bargains, the Soviet Union emphasizes that peace is an indivisible whole and that the principle of confiscation of others' lands is rejected by international law.

It is also noted that the Soviet peace program has come in reply to Western proposals submitted by the French president during his visit to Jordan and Egypt — proposals which considered Arab concession a condition for peace in the Middle East.

The Western plan, approved by the London Western summit and presented to the Arabs by the French president, stressed the need for direct negotiations without preconditions between Arab countries and sides on the one hand and Israel on the other.

This means that the Western plan authorized Israel's occupation of Arab territory and allowed it to implement its settlement plans in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the occupied Golan Heights.

Statements by U.S. and Zionist officials provide evidence that the United States is more interested in war in the Middle East than in peace and that it is employing the results of the Israeli elections as a pretext to peddle its hostile policy.

U.S. politicians and diplomats like Joseph Sisco, Saunders, Newman, and others testify that Washington is concerned with war, not peace, in the Middle East, and that it is not ready to undertake any action that conflicts with Israel's expansionist strategy.

The analyses made by political circles and observers at the United Nations and in European capitals show that an international conference for peace — from which the six-point Soviet program stems — is the ideal way and sole opportunity for peace in the Middle East.

These circles believe that by doing so the Soviet Union is only providing an ethical example of international relations. It is thus exposing the deceptive U.S. policy and calling on Arabs in particular to benefit from the situation to learn the real U.S. intentions toward the Arabs and their rights.

The Soviet proposals, which give the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state, stem from the Fes Arab summit resolutions. By calling for the restoration of Jerusalem to Palestinian Arab rule, these proposals are only proceeding from the summit resolutions of the nonaligned, Islamic, and Arab countries.

Observers stress that the Soviet peace program is an opportunity for both Arabs and Muslims to reassess their relations with the United States and the Western states, which are procrastinating because procrastination serves Israel and gives it time to entrench its occupation of the Arab territories. Hence, the proposed program on peace in the Middle East places the United States and the Soviet Union in the Arab balance.

All the Arabs can do now is to decide whether the connection of some of them with the United States is more important than their land and sanctities.

U.S. Rejection Reported

JN310627 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Washington — The U.S. Administration has reaffirmed its rejection of the Soviet proposal for holding a Middle East peace conference with the participation of the United States and the USSR. Reports cite the State Department spokesman as saying that the United States does not consider the USSR's participation in such a conference to be a useful factor, as he put it. Israel has declared its rejection of the Soviet peace proposals.

TISHRIN Raps Israeli Rejection

JN310946 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA) — The newspaper *TISHRIN* said in a commentary today that the Israeli reaction to the Soviet proposals for holding an international conference under UN auspices to establish just peace in the Middle East has been very quick, as though it was prepared in advance with Washington's agreement. The paper said that the Soviet proposals come at a time when the Israeli political parties are competing to form a government under the slogan of expelling the Arabs from their land, when the United States expresses support for any future Israeli Government, and while Cairo declares its readiness to positively cooperate with any Israeli Government.

TISHRIN said that the Israeli rejection of the Soviet proposals is based on the pretext that there are no diplomatic ties between Israel and the USSR and that the USSR is supplying arms to Syria. The paper pointed out that the USSR, the socialist states, and dozens of world countries severed their relations with Israel because of the 1967 aggression and because of U.S. support and financial backing for this aggression. Syria, the paper said, will continue to arm itself with Soviet weapons in the future within its defensive policy of defending Arab rights and preventing the entire region from collapsing.

In conclusion, *TISHRIN* said that by this rejection, Israel is proving that it does not want peace but expansion at the expense of the Arabs; that Syria did not expect Israel or the United States to agree on an international conference; and that under Al-Asad's leadership, Syria has sufficient power and friends to make Israel and the United States regret [their position] no matter how long it takes because the region will not remain as Washington wants it to remain.

AL-BA'TH on Possible U.S.-Israeli 'Aggression'

JN301020 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 30 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *AL-BA'TH* newspaper dealt with the Zionist elections, their results, and the haggling in the Zionist entity to form a new government which in any case would not be different from its predecessors.

AL-BA'TH says: Considering the Israeli election results, the fragmentation in this artificial Zionist entity, and the escalating election battles in the United States, which is Israel's strategic ally, many political observers have started talking about the seriousness of the Middle East situation.

After discussing the aggressive plans of the Zionist military establishment and the U.S. Administration, and the crises within the U.S. and Zionist societies, *AL-BA'TH* says: Hence, observers do not rule out the possibility that military action in the Middle East could take place, particularly through an aggression against Syria. This will be one of a number of joint Israeli-U.S. attempts to escape their stifling impasse and avoid the pressure of world public opinion.

Accordingly, signs of concern are apparent in most world capitals because these capitals are well aware of the trend of reckless adventures, which the U.S. Administration has been pursuing since Reagan took over the presidency.

Concluding its comment, *AL-BA'TH* says: In any case, preparing for an aggression is an easy task for those who have mastered the art of war, killing, and destruction, especially since they have never believed in a just peace nor exerted any effort for the sake of peace. But have they not benefited from the lessons of past and recent history? Are they certain that their reckless adventures will not boomerang and bring the final collapse of their plans closer.

Stand on Middle East Peace Reiterated

JN301343 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Recently, some U.S. officials have made many statements on the Middle East, the Gulf, Lebanon, and Syria. The U.S. statements on Syria followed two directions. In the first direction, the U.S. officials expressed some appreciation for Syria's achievements in Lebanon and recognized that Syria has a certain role to play in the region and in any settlement that may be realized or that is being worked for. In the other direction, the statements leveled untrue accusations against Syria. They say that Syria is a center of terrorism, a factor that hinders the peace process, an area of Soviet influence, a military power that constitutes a threat to peace and security, and other similar definitions and terms that are well known in the U.S. political lexicon of provocations.

The U.S. statements, whether in the form of temptations or in the form of threats, have not had and will not have any effect on the Syrian position, which was defined in light of Syria's national interests and the pan-Arab interests, as well as in light of accurate knowledge of the stands taken by states and the international power blocs toward the danger represented by the Israeli expansionist designs in the Arab homeland.

Whether the U.S. rulers praise Syria's role in Lebanon or send their planes to bomb the Syrian positions in Lebanon, Syria's position in Lebanon will not change. It is a policy of rejecting the transformation of Lebanon into a U.S. and NATO base of aggression against Syria and the Arabs, and extension of Israel's security. Syria's policy is that of standing by Lebanon in defending its unity, independence, sovereignty, and Arab affiliation, and the unity of its territory and people.

Regardless of the statements on Syria made by the U.S. officials, including U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, these statements will only increase Syria's adherence to its principled policy and its refusal to transform the region into a U.S. state and an area of Israeli influence. These statements will not affect Syria's rejection of all the plans that award the aggressors for their aggression, accept and legalize the illegal faits accomplis, and deal with the aggressor and the victim of aggression on an equal basis.

As President Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly said: The history and geography of the region are defined by the peoples of the region and not by the foreign powers or the forces of aggression. Hence Syria's rejection of the Camp David agreements and its policy, of all the attempts at imposing U.S. hegemony over the region and its problems, and of the U.S. monopoly over the solutions to the crisis created in the region by Zionist aggression against the Arab nation — an aggression which is supported by the United States and the other imperialist powers.

Syria rejected the freezing of the UN role and the flouting of UN responsibilities toward peace in the region. Syria also opposed moves against holding a Middle East peace conference under UN auspices, within the UN framework, and in accordance with the UN resolutions on the Palestinian problem and the Middle East.

Syria has always expressed its desire to establish a permanent, comprehensive, and just peace in the Middle East — a peace that is based on the UN principles and resolutions. Syria sincerely cooperated with all constructive efforts by the United Nations and other sides with the aim of searching for the means of realizing a just peace based on the UN resolutions, which include full recognition of the Arab Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to establishing their independent state on their homeland, and clearly stipulated the need for immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupiers from all Arab territories they occupied.

Syria accepted the UN secretary general's proposal on establishing an international Middle East conference, whereas the United States and Israel rejected it. We should not be surprised by their rejection of this proposal because the history of the region proves that Israel, supported by the United States, is the obstacle to establishing peace in the region, that it is Israel which has rejected and continues to reject all serious efforts to establish peace in the region or find the means of leading all serious moves to this effect.

As long as the United States and Israel take this stand, the chances of establishing peace in the region will remain almost nil. It is the duty of the international community not to be satisfied with recording Israel's rebelling against the UN principles and resolutions with U.S. support. The world community should be active in the practical and procedural fields so as to implement UN resolutions suitable for establishing peace in the region.

What is the use of making the victim of aggression accept the rule of law while the bandit is keeping his spoils and the fruits of his aggression without any punishment and without extricating from him the things he usurped?

A just, comprehensive, and permanent peace is the peace based on the UN resolutions and principles. It is the peace which leads to Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories and enables the Palestinian Arab people to exercise their rights of self-determination, of establishing their state on Palestinian soil, and of putting an end to the expansionist Zionist aims in the Middle East.

TISHRIN Notes World Recognition of Syrian Role

JN290829 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 29 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's comment, *TISHRIN* says: Syria's absolute fraternal support for Lebanon is no longer doubted by anyone except invader Israel. Syria's sincere and persevering efforts to help Lebanon regain its unity and sovereignty are recognized by everyone, with the exception of Israel of course. Lebanon's success in covering much ground on the path of accord, reconciliation, and stability is the talk of all observers and statesmen, with the exception of the Zionist enemy statesmen. But the facts speak, and facts are most eloquent. In fraternal Lebanon, there is a unanimity on the continuation of the salvation process, on the vitality of the Syrian role, and on the fact that Israel's hostile plans seek to divide Lebanon and foster internal strife and conflict.

When Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced in Damascus that without President al-Asad's support, Lebanon would not have started the process of acheiving security and liberating land, he was expressing the Lebanese conviction and great appreciation for the enormous efforts exerted by leader Al-Asad throughout the past 10 years to foil the Zionist plan and to help fraternal Lebanon to overcome its tribulation and acheive full recovery. Today, while the efforts of leader Al-Asad and all the devout Lebanese are bearing fruit, the enemy leaders make impudent, provocative statements after their conspiratorial role has been revealed to everyone.

TISHRIN concludes: Amid this general Lebanese awakening which the whole world, including the United States, was forced to recognize, the leaders of the Zionist enemy continue their mean plots to prolong their occupation of the south and western Al-Biqa', using as an excuse security arrangements not different in substance from the 17 May agreement toppled by the Syrian-Lebanese steadfastness. But these lies have not deceived any Lebanese. The closure of the Zionist Liaison Bureau in Ad-Dubbayyah was clear proof of Lebanese awareness of Israel's subversive role, which will also be toppled in the south by blows of the Lebanese resistance and the willpower of the international community. The clear fact will remain that Syria and Lebanon are twins and that no one can divide the sons of the one people.

Further Reportage on Visit of Lebanese Delegation

Khaddam Meets With Delegation

JN301031 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received a Lebanese delegation led by Joseph Skaf, minister of information and interior. The delegation comprises the following members of the Chamber of Deputies for the Al-Biqa' region: Ilyas al-Hirawi, Husayn Mansur, 'Abd al-Mawla Amhaz, Tariq Habashi, Subhi Yaghi, Salim al-Ma'luf, Salim ad-Dawud, and Husayn Zahmul al-Maysih. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh. The talks dealt with the current situation in Lebanon.

Delegation Meets Al-Asad, Departs

JN301552 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Joseph Skaf, Lebanese minister of information and acting interior minister, and the Al-Biqa' delegation consisting of Ilyas al-Hirawi, Husayn Mansur, 'Abd al-Mawla Amhaz, Tariq Habashi, Subhi Yaghi, Salim al-Ma'luf, Salim ad-Dawud, and Husayn Zahmul al-Maysih at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' and Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh. The talks revolved around the situation in the Lebanese arena.

The Lebanese delegation thanked the president for his great interest in Lebanon and in helping it continue its peaceful march, overcome the obstacles facing it, and preserve its independence, sovereignty, and unity of both land and people.

The president stressed Syria's interest in the efforts being exerted by the Lebanese brothers to continue the peace march within the framework of national accord and liberation of Lebanese territory from Israeli occupation. He said Syria is continuing to back these efforts and to stand on the side of all the Lebanese brothers in every sincere effort they exert to realize the citizen's security, rebuild Lebanon, and liberate those parts occupied by Israel.

At 1000 today Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the Lebanese delegation led by Joseph Skaf in the presence of Information Minister Yasin Rajjuh. The talks dealt with the current situation in Lebanon, the security situation in the Al-Biqa' area, and the ways to bolster national coexistence in that part of Lebanon.

In a statement to journalists, Skaf stressed that the strong and good relations between Lebanon and sister Syria are the best guarantee of the interests of the two countries.

He added: We are very hopeful that the continuous cooperation will be the greatest guarantee of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, freedom, and Arabism. He said his visit to Damascus is aimed at holding consultations with the brother officials in Syria on various common issues.

Joseph Skaf and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon at the end of a short visit to the country. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Yasin Rajjuh, minister of information; Ghassan Rajab, Ba'th Party Central Committee member, who represented the People's Assembly; and several senior Information Ministry officials.

Skaf's Departure Statement Reported

JN301953 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpt] In a statement to the SANA correspondent before departure, Joseph Skaf pointed out that the Al-Biqa' deputies' visit to Damascus in the current circumstances through which Lebanon is passing falls within the framework of the continued consultations and cooperation with our brothers in Syria. This is due to the special responsibility which Syria shoulders under President Hafiz al-Asad to help Lebanon regain its normal situation and end its dilemma. Skaf clarified that Al-Biqa' today is facing a very dangerous situation because of the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon and part of Al-Biqa' — a matter which has facilitated dividing Zahlah Governorate, obstructing the economic and administrative life, and separating western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya from the center of the governorate.

Skaf praised President Hafiz al-Asad's historic role in the regional and Lebanese arenas to guarantee Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and Arabism and to save it from the dilemma with which it has been faced for 10 years. Skaf expressed confidence that joint efforts between both countries will lead to saving and liberating Lebanon, and to returning it to normal.

Concluding his statement, Skaf pointed out that his talks with the Syrian officials focused on security in Al-Biqa', on the agricultural and economic situation in western Al-Biqa', on opening the international road between Damascus and Beirut, and on the means aimed at liberating the Lebanese territories from the Israeli occupation.

Beirut Interviews Khaddam

NC301830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam by Beirut Radio correspondent Samir Mansur in Damascus on 30 July — recorded]

[Text] [Khaddam] The situation in Lebanon has indeed started heading toward a real relaxation. What calls for satisfaction is that the various parties participating in the government are working seriously to implement the agreements reached and expressed in the policy statement. The security plan for Beirut, which is one link in a long chain of plans that aim to restore security, stability, and peace in Lebanon, is a great and very important step. It created a positive atmosphere, encouraging the continued implementation of this plan. We believe the Lebanese Government must continue with strong momentum to establish security and to impose the state's authority in a firm way, enabling Lebanese citizens to feel safe and secure in their country. The step already taken is important and the coming steps will also be important. We hope that everyone will continue to cooperate and that the Lebanese public will support the government in its march.

[Mansur] You often stressed, Mr Vice President, your support for the legitimate authority in Lebanon in its steps to establish (?quiet). What are the future steps, which you [words indistinct]?

[Khaddam] We said from the beginning that the continuation of the state means the continuation of Lebanon, and that the state's absence means the absence of Lebanon. Therefore, we urged all sides to support the authority of the state and its institutions. We rejected all past attempts to seize the state's institutions and authority. As President Hafiz al-Asad has frequently asserted, Syria will stand with all its strength on the side of Lebanon, the Lebanese state, and the national unity government to steer them toward the goals of the Lebanese people — security, stability, peace, and the liberation of all Lebanese territory from Israeli occupation. Syria will do its best to do what is required of it. President Hafiz al-Asad asserted this to President Amin al-Jumayyil, as well as to Prime Minister Rashid Karami during his recent visit. I wish to tell my brothers in Lebanon: We are with you with all our strength. We are brothers, and what befalls Lebanon befalls us and vice versa. History has proven that no foreign or other force can separate the two countries or obstruct their relations, understanding, and cooperation.

[Mansur] During your discussions with the Lebanese information minister, we heard you insist on unifying all the institutions in Lebanon. You particularly stressed the need to unify the information media in Lebanon — both radio and television. What direction do you think the unification process should take considering the security and political developments?

[Khaddam] The odd psychological and material situation created during the civil war in Lebanon must not continue. The reunification of the country can only be achieved through unifying the institutions and creating a psychological atmosphere that makes all Lebanese citizens feel the same toward all their brothers in the country. If the Army and security forces are the tools for establishing security and peace in Lebanon, then the information media are the other tools that play a major role, no less important than that of the security forces and Army. All Lebanese must be addressed by the same thoughts, language, manner, and course. The continuing split in the information media and the way they constantly address the Lebanese in conflicting ways does not play a positive role in the country's reunification. As I pointed out to Lebanese Information Minister Joseph Skaf today, we believe the next step, which we hope the Lebanese Cabinet will take, is unifying the information media in Lebanon so that these media — particularly radio and television — will become a united national media addressing the people in one language.

[Mansur] A final question: Lebanon, Syria, and the region in general are passing through a delicate and fateful stage. How do you view the situation at this stage from here, from Damascus?

[Khaddam] The situation in the region is, in general, complicated. The reasons for the complication, as we see them, are the Israeli expansionist and aggressive spirit, the U.S. spirit of domination, and the incorrect calculations the United States is making. It is a truly a complicated situation, but we have hopes for the future. This is not the first time the region has been in a state of complication, occupation, and aggression. The area has gone through similar situations and circumstances. Despite this, the Arabs ultimately were able to defeat the aggression and regain their rights and dignity. We feel assured about the future. No matter how complicated the course of events, the Arabs will overcome them and win all the rounds.

[Mansur] I would like to add a final word [words indistinct]. You know the Lebanese are concerned about their fate at this stage. Do you advise them to be optimistic and to reconstruct and rebuild?

[Khaddam] All the facts we have about Lebanon call for optimism — all of us must be optimistic. Those who are not optimistic and who cannot be optimistic place themselves at a dead end. The determination we feel among all Lebanese to end the peculiar situation in Lebanon together with Syria's decision, which President Hafiz al-Asad expressed, prompt us to be optimistic. We know that we have enemies and that it is in the interest of some people for normal conditions not to be restored in Lebanon. Despite this, we believe the united efforts of the Lebanese, cooperation among the Lebanese brothers, and Syrian and Arab support for Lebanon will defeat all those trying to stop the trend toward peace in the fraternal country.

AL-BA'TH Reiterates Optimism

JN310906 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 31 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today under the headline "Lebanese- Syrian Consultations and Lebanon's Recovery," *AL-BA'TH* says: With success that calls for great optimism, the Lebanese security plan is being implemented in fraternal Lebanon, particularly in the capital Beirut, which has been the scene of fierce fighting for almost 10 years of civil war. What calls for optimism also is the reconciliation among the Lebanese people and their understanding concerning a unified decision under the same legitimate rules and the leadership of the government of national salvation, which has devoted itself to saving Lebanon and the Lebanese from this war, placing them on the road to reconstruction and to liberating the occupied Lebanese territory from the Israeli gangs of invasion, and restoring Lebanon's national and pan-Arab role.

In all this, Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad is employing all its weight so that all the Lebanese security plans, on which the Lebanese people agree, would be realized; and so that all the Lebanese steps toward stability, reconstruction, and detente would lead to the safe path and reach Lebanon's aspired goals of reform and liberation.

Within this framework fall the recent meetings in Damascus between President Hafiz al-Asad and the Lebanese leaders, who came to Syria for consultations on various joint issues to serve the strong, good relations between Damascus and Beirut —

relations that are regarded as the best guarantee of the two countries' interests and the best means of preserving Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and freedom.

Following Prime Minister Karami's visit to Damascus late last week — a visit which resulted in great positive achievements on various levels and on the various issues discussed — Minister Joseph Skaf and his companions from the Al-Biqa' region visited Damascus yesterday and met with Leader al-Asad to discuss Lebanese problems in the Al-Biqa' and other Lebanese areas that suffer from the peculiar situation which resulted from the intra-Lebanese fighting over the past years.

President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to Minister Skaf — as he affirmed to the other Lebanese leaders in the past — that Syria is greatly interested in the Lebanese brothers' efforts to continue their peace march within the framework of their national reconciliation and their liberating the Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation. Al-Asad asserted that Syria continues to support these efforts and stand by all Lebanese in all their sincere efforts to realize the citizens' security, reunify Lebanon, and liberate the Israeli occupied Lebanese territory.

In adopting this pan-Arab position, Arab Syria believes that it is carrying out a pan-Arab duty that is in harmony with its historical position in which President al-Asad's leadership placed it. Syria has been transformed into a power that can be relied on in the Arab region no matter in what form the challenges come and regardless of the threats they carry.

Cabinet Reviews Region's Latest Developments

JN301212 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Damascus — The council of ministers held a meeting under Prime Minister Dr ‘Abd ar-Ra‘uf al-Kasm at 1100 today during which a political review of the current situation in theregion was carried out. Al-Kasm outlined the latest developments in a number of issues, particularly in the Lebanese arena,and various Arab and international contacts concerning the region's problems. The Cabinet reviewed the results of the Syrian-Romanian talks, the Syrian-GDR talks, the Ba‘th Party and government delegation's visit to Aleppo and the Aleppo Governorate on the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, and the various measures taken during this visit to develop Syria's northern area in the economic and services fields.

Kuwait's AS-SIYASAH on Rif‘at al-Asad's Return

GF301508 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 29 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by *AS-SIYASAH*'s political correspondent]

[Text] Well-placed sources have told *AS-SIYASAH* that Syria's ruling Ba‘th Party will hold a regional conference in mid-August under circumstances that will make it the most important congress in Syria's domestic history in the past 10 years. The first and most important issue on the agenda of the regional conference will be to decide on what political and press reports describe as the leadership structure. European circles, the French in particular, believe that a decision on this matter will determine the question of who will succeed President Hafiz al-Asad.

According to well-placed sources, one of the most important issues to be taken up by the regional conference is the return of Dr Rif‘at al-Asad, the president's brother and former commander of the defense companies dissolved recently and merged with the Army.

Rif‘at al-Asad, in Switzerland since his visit to Moscow, will return to Syria if the Ba‘th Party regional conference approves his return. His return would be a full political comeback, viewed both in terms of the party and his position as a former commander of the defense companies. While the regional conference may well decide democratically that Rif‘at al-Asad should return, foreign quarters, especially the British and the U.S. press, have been saying a conflict among second-line leaders will also be resolved in Rif‘at al-Asad's favor, in his capacity as vice president, so that he will come back with political and party powers derived from the Ba‘th Party itself.

The second matter that must be resolved by the Ba‘th Party regional conference is the relationship between Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] and Abu Akram [Musa ‘Awad] on the one hand, and between the other five leaders of the Fatah dissidents. The relationship recently has reached a critical stage following the decision by Abu Musa [Sa‘id Musa Muragha], Abu Khalid al-‘Imlah, Qadri [Samih Kuwayk], Majdi, and Abu ‘Ali to form a revolutionary council, a provisional leadership, and a new organization.

Abu Salih viewed these decisions as a final stand that will split Fatah and a departure from the principles on which the 1983 Fatah dissident movement was formed.

Until last week the task of reconciling the two wings of the Fatah dissidents was left to Syrian Vice President ‘Abd al-Halim Khaddam. It is expected that the issue will be tackled this week.

Observers believe that the issue and the way it will be tackled will be discussed by the Ba‘th party regional conference next month. This issue and the Lebanese situation will determine some stands in the voting during the regional conference.

Industry Minister Returns From GDR Visit

JN302009 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jul (SANA) — Industry Minister Mahmud Qaddur returned home this afternoon following a visit of several days to the GDR.

The minister said upon arrival that he held talks with GDR officials to bolster industrial and agricultural cooperation and provide the two sectors with the necessary machinery.

The talks were also aimed at increasing the volume of commodities and industrial products exchanged by the two countries.

Shamir, Peres Support National Unity Government

NC310928 Paris AFP in English 0923 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Jerusalem, July 31 (AFP) — Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the leader of the opposition Labour Party, Shim'on Peres, announced today that they both were "in favour of a government of national unity".

They made the statement at the end of their first round of consultations with President Hayim Herzog on forming a new government in the wake of the July 23 general election, which left neither side with a clear majority.

The news was a turnaround in the Labour Party of Mr Peres, who had maintained until today that his party would not join in any coalition government with the Likud.

Mr Shamir said he would take the initiative from tomorrow to negotiate with the Labour Party with the objective of forming a coalition government. The enormous political and economic problems facing Israel necessitated such a government, he said, which would also strengthen the country's democracy. He described differences between his party and Labour on how to tackle Israel's economic crisis and the question of Lebanon "insignificant."

Shamir Calls Peres

TA311021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] A short while ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir invited Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres to a first meeting today in order to discuss the formation of a national unity government. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that upon returning to his office from the president's residence, Shamir called Shim'on Peres and told him he was happy to hear that the Alignment agrees to examine the possibility of a national unity government. Shamir proposed that he and Peres meet today and talk over all issues involved. Shim'on Peres said he should consult his colleagues before giving a reply.

It was noted by the prime minister's office that Yitzhaq Shamir told the president today that the question as to who will lead the national unity government is subject to negotiations. In his opinion, there are no disagreements in principle between the Likud and the Alignment on economic and Lebanese issues. Shamir said that ways should be found to strengthen democracy in Israel. Shamir also expressed his wish that all parties supporting a national unity government participate in it.

Peres To Meet Shamir 1 Aug

TA311131 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The Alignment and Likud leaders, Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres, will confer at 1200 tomorrow to discuss the president's initiative on the formation of a national unity government.

The initiative for the meeting was taken by Yitzhaq Shamir today. He called Peres and invited him for a meeting on this today. Yitzhaq Shamir told his interlocutor that he was glad to hear from the president that the Alignment agreed to examine the possibility of establishing a national unity government. After consulting his colleagues, Shim'on Peres replied that it would be better to hold the meeting tomorrow, after the president concludes his round of talks with the rest of the parties.

In an interview for our midday newsreel, Shim'on Peres said that since the meeting is informal, he and Shamir will discuss the main issue, which is forming a national unity government.

The prime minister's office has denied the report that the prime minister does not reject an Alignment-led national unity government. It was made clear by the office that all pertinent issues will be discussed in talks between the parties, but that the prime minister believes it is the Likud which should head a national unity government.

President Herzog said he had taken the initiative on early consultations since he wanted to give expression to the feelings of the public, who support a national unity government. I cannot sit idle, kiss children, and receive bouquets of flowers, the president said. There is a time when I should act and decide. In the course of his talk with the Alignment leaders this morning, he wanted to know, among other things, how it will be possible to find some compromise for the parties' basic guidelines on Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Yitzhaq Rabin proposed that if the issue arises, the government will appeal to the people for a decision. Rabin mentioned this was the formula for the government led by Golda Me'ir at one time, a formula which satisfied the National Religious Party and made possible its incorporation in the coalition.

TAMI, Yahad, Ometz Support National Unity

TA311033 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Jul 84 p 2

[Yosi Melman report]

[Text] In a secret meeting at the Herzliyya Dan Accadia Hotel last night, the representatives of Yahad, Ometz, and TAMI decided to set up a joint bloc for coordinating moves in the coalition negotiations. 'Ezer Weizman and Avraham Tamir were Yahad's representatives. Yiga'el Hurvitz and Zalman Shoval represented Ometz, and Aharon Abu-Hatzera spoke for TAMI.

It was concluded that all three factions, which have a total of five Knesset members, will coordinate their moves and inform the president that they support a national unity government and that they are inclined to have the Alignment assigned the task of forming this government by virtue of its being the largest faction.

It was also decided at this meeting that an intensive effort will be made to achieve this goal of a national unity government even if it is necessary to entrust this task to a person who does not head one of the two large parties. If the deadlock in the coalition negotiations continues, this task may be assigned to 'Ezer Weizman.

Herzog Chairs Meetings on Unity Government

Meets With Labor Leaders

TA310820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT Jul 84

[Text] The Labor Party leaders this morning conferred with President Herzog at his residence, and our correspondent Arye Golan has learned that the question of who will be assigned to the task of forming the government did not arise in their talk. The president said he now wants only to discuss the need for forming a national unity government, due to the economic and general problems facing Israel, and in the wake of many citizens' appeals in recent days.

Peres' answer to this was that if he is entrusted with the task, he will make every possible effort to form a wide-based government. He emphasized it is not the Alignment which was to blame for the failure of the initiative for a national unity government which followed Begin's resignation.

Our correspondent notes that upon leaving the president's residence, the Alignment leaders emphasized that following election campaigns in the past, the task of forming a government was always assigned to the leader of the largest faction.

Likud leaders Yitzhaq Shamir, David Levi, Yitzhaq Moda'i and Eli'ezer Shostak are meeting with the president at the moment.

Confers With Likud Chiefs

TA310914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir does not reject outright the establishment of a national unity government headed by an Alignment representative. He will approach the Alignment leaders today and propose that they discuss the issue with the Likud leaders. The prime minister spoke with correspondents after a Likud delegation met with President Herzog.

In his opinion, there are no basic differences of opinion between the Likud and the Alignment on economic and Lebanese issues. In Shamir's opinion, it is also necessary to find ways to strengthen democracy in Israel.

Kahana Win Sparks Flurry of Protests, Comment

Rally in Umm al-Fahm

TA281610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] A rally to protest Rabbi Kahana's threats was staged in Umm al-Fahm at noon today. The head of the Umm al-Fahm local council and the other speakers at the rally said that Kahana's views are harmful to the Jews who suffered and are still suffering from the consequences of nationalist incitement. The head of the local council called for a broad front of both Jews and Arabs to eradicate this racist phenomenon.

1,000 Attend

TA281905 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1820 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 28 Jul (ITIM) — About 1,000 people, both Jews and Arabs, participated in a rally organized by the Progressive List for Peace in Umm al-Fahm to protest Rabbi Kahana's threats to come to the village and expel its residents. The Jewish participants came to the village by organized transportation from Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa. "If Kahana dares to come here, he will find us all, both Jews and Arabs, standing together and blocking his way," Uri Avneri and Muhammad Mi'ari of the Progressive List for Peace said.

The crowd loudly applauded their remarks. Every time Kahana's name was mentioned he was booed and numerous angry fists were waved in the air. Also participating in the rally was MAPAM MK Muhammad Watad, who said that if the Knesset had adopted the anti-racism bill he proposed, a bill which was passed in the first reading only, Kahana would have entered prison rather than the Knesset.

The members of the Progressive List for Peace also appealed to MK's Yosi Sarid, Mordekhay Virshubsky, Shulamit Aloni, and Ya'ir Tzaban, as well as to a HADASH MK, to take part in the rally, but they declined for various reasons and excuses.

Uri Avneri said that Kahana's rise reminds him of his childhood in Nazi Germany: "I am fighting against Kahana not only on behalf of the Arabs but also on behalf of myself; if Kahana wins, any decent person in Israel, Jewish or Arab, will wind up in a concentration camp."

Muhammad Mi'ari, too, called on the Jewish citizens of Israel to understand that Kahana is their problem: "He wants to expel the Arabs and to terrorize the Jews; he wants to drag us all into a deep quagmire from which there is no way out. All of us, Jews and Arabs together, will fight him for the sake of our common future."

Burg on Anti-Kahana Measures

TA301050 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Jul 84 p 3

[Report by Refa'el Mann, Yehoshu'a Bitzur, Re'uven Ben-Tzvi, Yosef Tzuri'el, Abu 'Ubayd Mu'ayyin, Ya'el Paz Melamed and Ilan Bakhar]

[Excerpts] "The police and security elements are coordinating ways of handling Rabbi Me'ir Kahana's activities, and will do their best to prevent provocations on his part." These remarks were made by Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg during yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

Minister Burg made this statement in an answer to a question by Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat who wanted to know what measures the Israeli police were adopting to prevent provocations by Kahana and his people.

"It is urgently necessary to restrain Kahana, so that this madman does not feel as free as reflected in his remarks and acts since the election results were made known," Minister Pat said.

Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, head of the Shefar'am Municipality and the national committee of the local Arab authorities, who is considered a moderate in the Arab sector, said that Kahana's place is not in Israel. He noted that Kahana's remarks run counter to the foundations of democracy and that Kahana is apparently enjoying his appearance in the headlines.

In reply to a question, Husayn also said that if Kahana tries to enter Shefar'am, the 24,000 residents of this town will face him as one and treat him accordingly.

The news section of the Broadcasting Authority yesterday discussed the policy of news coverage regarding Kahana. Uri Porat, director general of the Broadcasting Authority, has issued the news section instructions on how to treat reportage on Kahana's movement.

It was decided that the radio and television will cover Kahana's remarks and activities only when they are clearly justified as newsworthy.

Tacit Acceptance of Views Hit

TA271210 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jul 84 p 11

[Dan Margalit commentary: "Only Kahana's KAKH"]

[Text] Me'ir Kahana's frightening statement that his movement will become a central political force can no longer be scoffed at or ignored. It might yet — God forbid — come true, and if that is the case we can already begin to write the history books of the 21st century: Kahana and his supporters were a bunch of zeroes; one was an artist whose drawings were rejected by the Bezalel Art School and another was a self- proclaimed architect who was expelled from the Technion; the rest were an assortment of trashy good-for-nothing political bums. Yitzhaq von Shamir and Shim'on von Peres, however, paid no attention to the danger and the other Prussians did not care all that much.

Israel's history, which is painful in any case, may still avoid such a chapter. A decision must be made now, however,when Israel is stricken with political paralysis. Israel seems to believe that it is engaged in Weimar Republic-like wheelings and dealings whose results will be determined by whether Yitzhaq Shamir or Shim'on Peres form the next government. What is really taking place, however, is a dangerous process of delegitimizing Israel's democracy. The characteristics of this process are helplessness and a pile of letters and verbal appeals to Education Minister Zvulun Hammer from teachers who wonder what to tell their students about Kahana when the new school year begins next month. Nobody has an authoritative reply yet.

In practice, the cure to the Kahana syndrome lies on two levels. MK Yosi Sarid has stated that if "that crook" goes to the village of Umm el-Fahm to open an office for Arab immigration, he will encounter Sarid and his friends there. Hopefully, this will be unnecessary and the authorities will not allow Kahana to bully Israeli Arabs. The attorney general may also wake from his sleep, look into books for banning incitement and racism, and act against those who do as they please.

The fundemental solution is totally different. It is a long, tiring, and frustrating process which is entirely up to the camp that described itself as "national." There are some Likud Knesset members who realize that Kahana's voters achieved part of their political development in their ranks. They arrived at a simplistic and primitive conclusion by coarsely interpreting the views of the Likud, Tehiya, and Gush Emunim, the gist of which is: If what the national establishment says is true, then the despicable rabbi should be supported.

After all, if a Cabinet minister thinks the top Jewish terrorist should be the director general of a government ministry, why not pardon the underground riffraff — and this is what Kahana preaches; if the prison where the terrorists are being held has become a quasi-shrine for pilgrims and two ministers have already visited it, then long live Kahana; if Tehiya wants to deprive Arabs who did not serve in the Army and who are disloyal to the state of the right to vote, then it is better to have Kahana's clear message that democracy is meant only for the Jews. After all, it is too complicated to estimate, measure, and assess what loyalty to the state is and who fulfills its obligations and requirements. The right to vote for Jews alone is the same thing, only it is more explicit.

Those who have come to terms with the silence of Ari'el Sharon, who has not yet denounced Kahana; those who have read that Shamir refrained from once again denouncing the Jewish terrorists in an interview with *THE WASHINGTON POST*; those who agreed with the statements of Yuval Ne'eman and Yosef Burg — all of them will be hard put to explain why Kahana should be the one to be curbed. In any event, the attitude of these two ministers toward suspected terrorists invalidates the fundamental opposition to Kahana's horrors. It only leaves tactical reasons (which do not win over the hearts of young people) for not embracing the KAKH leader's plan for the time being, and the trouble with tactical opposition is that it erodes rapidly.

The national camp and those in the Labor Party who, in retrospect, justified the assassination attempt against the Arab mayors in Judaea and Samaria, must change direction and amend their message. It is their duty to convey to a new generation of Israelis, without "buts" and wisecracks, an unambiguous message that both the Jews and Arabs are an inseparable part of Eretz Yisra'el, that the Palestinians are just like the Mediterranean Sea, the Gilboa' Mountains, Karmel Mount, and the Sea of Galilee. Nobody wants to, and it would be impossible to uproot and transfer them elsewhere. This fact does not run counter to the Zionist vision of gathering the Jews from all over the world in Eretz Yisra'el, or to the fundamental premise of this wonderful national movement that anti-Semitism is an inevitable world phenomenon and that the Israeli state must always be prepared to serve as a safe haven.

This is a complicated message. The Jewish-Arab encounter is a painful and prolonged tragedy, and because of it the Jewish people have been forced to live by the sword. Only for as long as it remains sharp and is not put back in its sheath are the chances good that the Arabs may despair of their foolish hope to annihilate the Jewish state. However, the uniqueness of Zionism lies in the tireless efforts to find a humane solution to relations between the two nations whose life and death are linked together like that of Siamese twins. What Kahana proposes — to eliminate one of them — would be tantamount to passing a death sentence on the twin nation, on the Jewish people sitting in Zion.

Still, how can this message be taught? The level-headed national camp cannot ignore the passive role it played in spreading the Kahana cancer. It cannot absolutely reject the basic logic emanating from the preaching by the Likud and Tehiya. In the absence of a national willingness for a territorial compromise to maintain Israel's Jewish character — based on the assumption held by all that its Jewish character is a condition for the success of Zionism — then this can only be done by expelling the Arabs, because the demographic problem can be solved only by territorial shrinkage or Arab emigration, and this is what both camps are getting across.

There is no avoiding the conclusion that the Zionist-sovereign alternative to Kahana, the option that may catch and be accepted by the younger generation which is looking for fair and clear solutions, is crystal-clear: Either fewer Arabs or less territory, and those who are not prepared to recognize this fact are inadvertently paving the way for Kahana's success.

"Territorial intransigence" by definition leads to trains filled with Arab deportees.

Zaq Criticizes Weizman Camp David Statements

TA301533 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Jul 84 p 8

[Moshe Zaq commentary: "Who Will Help 'Ezer?"]

[Excerpts] 'Ezer Weizman is angry, and this time rightly so. He was the major general who worked so hard to build up the strength of the Israeli Air Force and he was defense minister. Despite this, he received fewer votes from the soldiers than Me'ir Kahana did.

That is annoying. Nevertheless, he should not vent his frustration on the Israeli public. It certainly does not give him the right to torture and punish the country.

The words attributed to him, that the Israeli Government has violated the Camp David accords, are not only critical of a government which he does not like, but unintentionally they also harm Israel's vital interests.

'Ezer was given a long time to deny what was said in his name on television and radio broadcasts, but he has not taken the opportunity to explain his case clearly. He unintentionally contributed a great deal to the Egyptian propaganda machine, which is accusing us night and day of violating the Camp David accords, saying that **Israel** is the one violating them and not Egypt. Yet when Egypt votes against Israel at international conferences, this is quite in contradiction to the commitments in the peace agreement. It is a distorted presentation of facts to say that the settlements and not the wild incitement against Israel in the Egyptian state-controlled newspapers constitute a violation of the Camp David accords.

Israel is fighting Egypt's arguments and is trying to enlist the United States in this struggle, as the latter was also a signatory to the Camp David agreements; and now 'Ezer Weizman, who was a member of the Israeli negotiating delegation at Camp David, is stating — at least, this is what was reported by Israeli television — that Israel is violating the accords.

How can Israel persuade Egypt to adhere to the Camp David accords if it has such an important witness as 'Ezer Weizman stating that Israel is the party at fault.

'Ezer Weizman has actually decided — even prior to the elections — to join the Alignment or — to put it more clearly — his friend Shim'on Peres, and there is nothing wrong with this. Such was his opinion all the time.

Therefore, when he wants to justify his joining the Alignment, he does not need the Camp David accords, whose value no one disputes. However, if he also aspires to the Alignment-led government's Foreign Ministry portfolio, which has already been promised to Yitzhaq Navon, he should at least show his expertise in regard to the Camp David accords. If he asks the advice of lawyers, they will tell him that the Israeli Government has not deviated from these accords or violated them.

Maybe 'Ezer Weizman, who was at Camp David, can say that the bombing of the nuclear reactor in Baghdad 2 days after the meeting between Begin and As-Sadat is not in line with the **spirit** of Camp David; this is a matter which can be discussed. But it is not a violation of the **written** accords.

There is some question concerning the length of time Menahem Begin promised to freeze settlement activity. Begin interpreted this as a period of 3 months only, whereas Carter and As-Sadat saw the commitment as valid until the peace negotiations were concluded. But the peace agreement had already been signed. Therefore, even for the strictest people, Israel is not violating the clauses of the Camp David accords.

'Ezer Weizman may think that freezing the settlements will improve Egypt's attitude toward Israel; that is his right, but he cannot accuse the Israeli Government, the elected Government of Israel, of violating the written accords. The accords are not secret, and it would be desirable for Foreign Ministry officials to help whoever wants to be a pivotal factor in the new government, to balance his words so as not to falter with misstatements.

Even if 'Ezer Weizman fails in his efforts to be a pivotal factor in coalition negotiations, the media will forgive him for the lessons in politics which he is now receiving, as he is returning their favor by creating tension in the incredible efforts to establish a government, which had disappeared after the tense weeks on the eve of the elections.

He will be forgiven everything, but one thing will not be forgotten. As a man who aspires to be Israel's foreign minister,he should do his homework vis-a-vis the Camp David accords before joining the battery of those accusing Israel of violating them.

This does not disqualify 'Ezer Weizman from fighting to change the line of negotiations with Egypt. He has not hidden his views in this respect ever since he left the government, and maybe even before that. But making the serious accusation that Israel is violating the agreement with Egypt is something exceptional and discordant.

DAVAR Comments on Soviet Mideast Proposal

TA310938 Tel Aviv DAVAR In Hebrew 31 Jul 84 p 9

[Editorial: "A New Soviet Initiative"]

[Text] The updated "concrete" proposals the Soviet Union has now raised as a followup to its basic suggestion on convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of Israel and its Arab neighbors, the PLO and the two superpowers, are tantamount to a demonstration of presence at a time when the chances for rapid progress without the Soviet Union are not good anyway, in view of the stalemate in the Israeli elections.

However, as far as the Soviets are concerned, the intention of their plan is to continue to cultivate a favorable atmosphere in the Arab countries, including Egypt, whose relations with Moscow show signs of improvement. Moscow's move is surely also a signal for the upcoming UN General Assembly session, and preparation for the possibility that after the elections in the United States Washington will launch a new initiative, regardless of which administration is elected there in November and which government is then in power in Israel.

From Israel's point of view, the updated Soviet proposal is no more acceptable than its predecessor. The PLO can be no partner to negotiations as long as it has not changed its charter, which rejects the existence of Israel. The chances of making progress in an international conference are smaller than in the framework of separate negotiations on the various fronts. It is clear that the Soviet Union is not a parallel party to the United States in such negotiations, since it maintains diplomatic relations with the Arab countries only, and not with Israel.

However, despite all this, any Israeli Government which will be established had better take into consideration the Soviet interests in this region, and seek a road toward easing and reducing the hostility with Moscow when the opportunity for this comes.

Security Source Denies Secret Syrian Talks

TA301915 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The IDF has no intention of changing its current deployment in southern Lebanon, but will do so only after the army of southern Lebanon is ready to assume control over various parts of southern Lebanon. A top security source said this evening that the army's performance has recently improved, but we are still far from a situation allowing us to leave southern Lebanon and turn over positions to the army of southern Lebanon.

The source denied reports by Western media sources that secret Israeli-Syrian negotiations are being conducted in Western Europe.

IDF Source Explains Role of South Lebanese Army

TA310702 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jul 84 p 1

[Joshua Brilliant report]

[Text] Tel Aviv — The south Lebanese Army [SLA] has proved itself beyond Israel's original expectations and will gradually control more and more areas, a senior Israeli defence source said yesterday. However, he added, it was still impossible to predict when the Israel Defence Forces would be able to pull out of southern Lebanon.

The source disputed reports of a rise in the number of attacks on the IDF in Lebanon. He said that last month the number of attacks was the lowest in the past six months. There had also been a drop in the number of casualties.

The source recalled that six months ago the Israeli defence establishment had been pessimistic when asked about the SLA's prospects of reducing the IDF's burden in south Lebanon.

He said that several months ago the commander of an IDF division in Lebanon had reported that the removal of the SLA would not change his division's deployment and operations. In other words, the SLA played no role in that commander's calculations.

But now, the general assumption is that the SLA can help reduce the burden on the IDF. Israel has already transferred to it responsibility for large sectors of Sidon and is about to assign SLA soldiers to An-Nabatiyah, the second largest city in Lebanon, where the IDF has often been attacked.

The source said the IDF will continue to hand over responsibility for security "wherever the SLA can handle it."

But Israel is still "far" from leaving the entire matter in the SLA's hands and even in the more distant future the SLA will probably require Israeli aid in crucial situations.

Nor is it clear when Israel could withdraw to the international border, the source said. He said Israel does not have full control over various elements who would help determine that date — for example, the local population — so "we cannot say when everything will be ready."

Questioned about the prospects for contact with the Lebanese government following the closure of the Israeli office in Ad-Dubayyah near Beirut, the source said Israel will not open an office in southern Lebanon and "at this stage" there are no signs of imminent indirect contacts with the government of Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

The source made it clear Israel will not ease its checks at the crossing points from northern Lebanon to the Israeli-held south. Long convoys have been queuing up at the (Batr) Ash-Shuf crossing point and travellers have had to wait for days. The source said Israel does not want to sever the south from the rest of Lebanon but the strict security checks must continue to prevent arms smuggling.

Turning to the fairly new Ground Corps Command the source said it has already begun making an impact in decisions about development purchases and combat theories.

IDF Tightening Control on Crossings in Lebanon

TA290634 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Jul 84 pp 1, 2

[Military correspondent Tali Zelinger report]

[Excerpt] The IDF will thoroughly tighten control over the passage of goods and vehicles through the Ash-Shuf area crossing points in the central sector in Lebanon. A routine check-up at one of the crossing points last week uncovered a booby-trapped car which was brought to southern Lebanon from the north and was apparently scheduled to be used in a terrorist attack against an IDF base.

This incident led to the decision made over the weekend to thoroughly tighten control over the crossing points. Senior IDF officers have voiced their assessment that this process will ultimately bring about the closure of the crossing points. Sources in the defense establishment last night categorically denied such a tendency which — if it were to materialize intentionally or inevitably — would lead to the creation of a so-called "northern bank," namely, the separation of southern Lebanon from the northern part of the country.

Al-'Awwali Traffic Blocked

TA310444 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0400 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The crossing from north to the south over the Al-'Awwali River has been blocked in fact since the closure of the Israeli representation in Beirut. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the northern Lebanese residents are unable to obtain permits. As a result, a large crowd is now gathered north of the river, in the (Badr) ash-Shuf area, and there is a long line of trucks loaded with goods. Jerusalem officials acknowledge the problem, but say that a solution lies in the Lebanese Government's hands. The heads of the chambers of commerce in southern Lebanon will meet in Sidon today to discuss the situation.

An-Najah University Closed Down 30 July

TA301200 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Israel forces have effectively closed An-Najah University in Nabulus for the day. This follows the confiscation of a large amount of printed material last night. Jerry Cheslow reports:

[Begin recording] There are conflicting reports on the number of arrests there. The Civil Administration says 3 people are being held, but Palestinian sources put the number at 10. Both say that most of the people taken in were night watchmen apprehended alongside the displays. The entire search was videotaped to counter possible accusations that the soldiers had acted improperly.

This morning, roadblocks were erected in the vicinity of the university, preventing students and lecturers from entering. The Civil Administration says this is to prevent violence following last night's operation.

The Civil Administration's spokeswoman maintains that the roadblocks are expected to be lifted tonight.

Last night's search came in the wake of increasing political activity in An-Najah. The university administration has been warned by the Civil Administration several times over the past month to contain the increasing number of anti-Israel assemblies on campus.

This time, informed sources say, the Civil Administration is likely to ask the Defense Ministry to take action. They would not say what that action might be.

Closure Extended to 4 Months

TA301729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The An-Najah University in Nabulus has been closed for 4 months following the discovery of terrorist materiel for acts of sabotage. Arrests are expected.

Collective Punishment Seen

TA311056 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Jerry Cheslow report — live]

[Excerpt] The An-Najah University board of governors is now meeting to discuss the closure. Its chairman, Hikmat al-Masri, says he may ask the Civilian Administration to reopen the campus. Immediately after the order was handed to Al-Masri, he protested to the Civilian Administration against what he considers collective punishment.

[Begin Al-Masri recording] Perhaps somebody, some are responsible for what happened inside the university, but they should make the penalties on those responsible for that, but not all the institution should be included in this decision.

Al-Masri acknowledged that the university administration had been warned repeatedly against incitement, but said the students are excitable. He did not deny that the Palestine Week exhibition contained pro-PLO material, but said that the extremism on campus was largely a reflection of extremism in Israel.

[Begin Al-Masri recording] What is happening inside Israel, with Kahana, you know, it makes a reaction from the students. You know, Kahana, what does he say? They want to uproot the Arabs from Palestine, from the West Bank, and the authorities are doing nothing.

New Customs Rules Imposed on Jordan Bridges

TA301933 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1910 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Jericho, 30 Jul (ITIM) — New customs regulations have been imposed on people crossing the Jordan River bridges into the West Bank.

ITIM reports that every Judaea and Samaria resident who spends more than 2 days outside that region will be permitted to bring in a number of items worth up to $50. Inhabitants who remain outside of Judaea and Samaria up to 5 days will be allowed to bring in equipment and duty-free items worth $100, as well as personal goods that will also be duty-free. Those who spend more than 2 weeks away will be permitted to go through customs with goods worth up to $500 without paying customs duties. Any item or piece of equipment that is worth more than the above-mentioned sum will entail fees and heavy fines.

West Bank, Gaza Visitors Allowed To Stay Longer

TA301928 Tel Aviv ITIM In Hebrew 1915 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Jericho, 30 Jul (ITIM) — Hundreds of summer visitors cross the Jordan River bridges into Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip every day. Some of them are inhabitants of the region who have come to spend their vacation from the Gulf countries, where they are employed.

The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria reports that the Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration has been lenient in dealing with summer visits, including issuing permits allowing the visitors to stay in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip for a period of 3 months, as opposed to the regular 30-day permits that are issued during the rest of the year.

In addition to this, the terminals on the river bridges open early, to allow the visitors to cross in the cool, early morning hours. The Civilian Administration has likewise allowed visitors who come in between 1 July and 1 October to bring in $3,500, compared to $2,000 at other times.

U.S., Saudi Financial Aid to Bethlehem Noted

TA301030 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Jul 84 p 7

[Amnon Raz report]

[Text] The Americans and the Saudis will shortly transfer a sum of $1.4 million to Bethlehem municipality. This follows the defense minister's acceptance of the recommendation made by the coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren. The Civilian Administration has already officially informed Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj of its consent to the transfer of the funds.

The Defense Minister's decision followed pressures exerted by U.S. elements. There were disagreements between Moshe Arens and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on this issue during Arens' visit to the United States in May.

The Civilian Administration did not make the transfer [illegible] conditional upon their being deposited in the "Development Fund." This fund was set up to absorb monies reaching the region from foreign sources. Despite denials by administration elements, this can be viewed as a change in policy regarding the introduction of foreign currency into the region. A Bethlehem Municipality source said that Saudi Arabia has already approved an additional million dollars and he does not foresee any problem in obtaining administration approval for this sum as well.

Egyptians Release Four After Interrogation

TA271413 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1405 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Elat, 27 Jul (ITIM) — The four Israelis who were detained by the Egyptians on Wednesday afternoon while sailing near Coral Island were released from detention and returned to Elat yesterday evening.

The four Israelis were taken to an Egyptian court in An-Nuwaybi' and fined 50 Egyptian pounds, equivalent to about $50 each. They also got back their confiscated boat.

Upon their return, the four Israelis said they had been detained by the Egyptians as their boat was making its way back to Elat, sailing at a distance of about 1.5 km off Coral Island and about 200 meters off the Egyptian coast. An Egyptian police boat was launched in their direction and they were detained for interrogation.

They also said that the Egyptians had treated them fairly and courteously; they also received food "which was even better than that of the Egyptians themselves."

Jewish Underground Detainee Receives Jail Term

TA310626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Yosef Tzuriya, one of the detainees in the Jewish underground affair, was sentenced this morning to 3 years in prison and 3 years suspended sentence. This is reported by our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar. Tzuriya admitted he had carried out surveillance at the Temple Mount and bought silencers, passing himself off as an officer.

Price Increase in Basic Commodities, Fuel

TA310656 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jul 84 p 1

[Excerpt] The Finance Ministery last night ordered a general price rise of 15 percent on subsidized basic commodities. Fuel and cooking gas went up by an average of 13 percent. The new prices are effective as of midnight last night.

The new prices leave all basic commodities heavily subsidized. Voice of Israel said yesterday that Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad decided to delay a reduction in subsidies until he conducts negotiations for a package-deal with the Histadrut.

The degree of subsidy is some 30 percent higher than it was in March before the election campaign got under way.

When he took over the Finance Ministery last October, Kohen-Orgad's policy was to work towards lowering subsidies; but, last night's adjustment freezes the present situation of relatively high subsidies.

The subsidy on most basic commodities is over 100 percent and in the case of bread, much higher. Bread is subsidized by an average 130 percent, oil and margerine by 100 percent, eggs by 117 percent, frozen chickens by 115 percent, milk and milk products by 96 percent.

All these commodities went up by 15 percent last night.

Territories Representation in PLO Council Grows

TA311039 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Jul 84 p 4

[Pinhas 'Inbari report]

[Text] In the deliberations in Aden among the various PLO components, it was decided to increase the number of PNC members who come from the territories from 120 to 180. This decision was due to the fact that key public figures, including mayors, were not on the previous members' list. Our correspondent has learned that it is assumed that all mayors have been included in the expanded list. To date, the PLO has not invited personages from the territories for discussions in the PNC. The PLO intends to invite them now for the first time, but Israel refuses them permits. Most PNC members from the territories are 'Arafat supporters.

ALGERIA

Briefs

New Envoys to CSSR, India — Algiers, 29 Jul 84 (APS) — The Indian Government gave its approbation on the 8 July 1984 to the appointment of Mr Abderrahmane Ben Sid, in his quality of plenipotentiary and extraordinary of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Algeria before the Republic of India. Moreover, the Czechoslovakian Government gave its approval on the 5 July to the appointment of Mr Abdelhamid Latreche in his quality of extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Democratic Peoples Republic of Algeria before the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1133 GMT 29 Jul 84 LD]

LIBYA

Arab Congress Condemns U.S. Anti-Libyan Aggression

LD301601 Tripoli JANA in English 1449 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqida 3, July 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Council of Representatives of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People Congress has condemned the American aggression against the Jamahiriyah and violation of integrity of its space and territorial water. The council drew attention, in a statement issued at the end of an emergency meeting held yesterday in Tripoli, [to] Arab and world public opinion of the dangers of this deliberate and preplanned provocative aggression.

The statement points out that the American Government did not hide determination to get rid of progressive revolutionaries regimes especially the Jamahiriyah which hinders the implementation of the American terrorist plans aimed at hegemony on the Arab homeland following granting American forces facilities and bases on Arab territories. The council confirms on its statement that the American aggressive attempts on territorial space and waters of the Jamahiriyah in Gulf of Sidra and mobilization of the aircraft carrier of the 6th Fleet to frighten the Libyan Arab people. All these attempts failed due to determination and resistance of the Libyan Arab people.

The statement announced again support of Arab and international liberation forces of the Libyan Arab people and revolution in face of these repeated American aggressive provocations.

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD301432 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a 2-day visit to the Jamahiriyah, during which he will head the Italian delegation at the meetings of the fifth session of the Libyan Arab-Italian Joint Committee for Economic and Social Cooperation, which will begin its proceedings this evening at the headquarters of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau.

ANSA Reports Andreotti Visit

AU301938 Rome ANSA in English 1931 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] (ANSA) Tripoli, July 30 — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Tripoli today for an official two-day visit that will focus on political and economic issues. Andreotti was welcomed at the airport by his Libyan counterpart to work and co-chaired the Joint Italo-Libyan Commission. [sentence as received]

Andreotti, who most recently visited Tripoli only six months ago, told At-Turayki, "the frequency of our encounters is concrete proof of the good state of our relations which we intend to bolster even further. Strengthened understanding between our two countries is an important element to assure peace and stability in the Mediterranean, in which Libya and Italy occupy a central position with important effects on world balance".

Andreotti's original schedule did not include any meetings with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi but the warmth of today's welcome for the Italian official led political observers to predict a meeting between Andreotti and Al-Qadhdhafi but its venue has not been announced yet.

Italy is Libya's major trade partner (1983 trade was worth 7,281 billion lire; 50 percent of Libya's imports from the European Community come from Italy and there are 15-18 thousand Italian technicians at work in Libya) and this is why Andreotti decided to personally co-chair the joint commission session. Minister Al-Turayki did not hide his appreciation for Andreotti's decision and is hosting a large banquet in the Italian minister's honor this evening.

Andreotti told his hosts he expects the talks will offer "elements for orientation, information and judgement" which will help lead to better understanding of the two governments' respective positions and strengthen relations between the two countries in "absolute respect" of each others' options and systems.

In a brief speech after a luncheon in his honor today, Andreotti said that Italy is pursuing in the Mediterranean and in Europe "purely defensive equilibria" — an indirect response to Libyan statements that the cruise missiles deployed in Sicily are a "threat" to the North African state.

Andreotti also said that should difficulties develop between the two countries "they must be handled through conciliation and negotiations".

The major problem on the agenda is recovery of an estimated one thousand billion lire in credits extended by Italian firms to Libya. A solution of the problem, which is caused by Libya's financial difficulties and threatens a large number of small and medium-sized Italian firms, is essential to an expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

The difficulty in solving the problem is that "compensation" through oil products is not always applicable. However, Foreign Ministry sources said on the eve of Andreotti's departure that it "is not impossible to solve" and a contribution could be not only the two countries' reiterated intentions to further develop relations (including military cooperation, assignalled by the success of the recent visit to Tripoli by General Umberto Cappuzzo), but also an improved climate in Italo-Libyan relations in recent months.

In February, Andreotti conferred for more than two hours with Al-Qadhdhafi who said the Sicilian missiles are a threat to Libya and demanded reparations for damage caused by the Italian colonization of his country. There are signs that Libya has understood the "purely defensive" nature of the missiles and as regards the request for reparations, Andreotti had denied there were judicial grounds justifying the request (Italy has already paid Libya 1.5 million British pounds in reparations).

The Italian foreign minister did voice Italy's willingness to make a "humanitarian" gesture, such as the construction of a hospital or awarding scholarships to Libyan students.

At-Turayki, Andreotti Begin Talks

LD310001 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The fifth session of the Libyan Arab-Italian Joint Commission for Economic and Social Cooperation began its meeting tonight at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison to discuss ways and means to bolster relations of cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Italy in all fields. Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the secretary of the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, spokes at the beginning of the session. He welcomed Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and the accompanying delegation, and expressed confidence about reaching positive results on the level of the joint cooperation relations between the Jamahiriyah and Italy.

Andreotti affirmed the full desire of Italy to consolidate its relations with the Jamahiriyah and said: We in Italy are not only seeking to achieve the joint interest, but also to create cooperation with all peoples of the Mediterranean region.

The Italian minister stressed that the basic motive for Italy to develop its relations with the Jamahiriyah stems from the political weight which the Jamahiriyah enjoys.

Mozambican Deputy Foreign Minister Pays Visit

MB301606 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Jose Carlos Lobo, deputy minister of foreign affairs, has been in Tripoli since yesterday on a working visit to Libya. This has been announced by the Libyan news agency. During his stay in Libya, Jose Carlos Lobo will take part in working sessions of the Afro-Arab Joint Committee of Cooperation, which will take place in Tripoli from 2 to 4 August.

JANA Reports Kamougue Success in Chad

LD302102 Tripoli JANA in English 1829 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Bardai, 2 Dhulqida, 30 July, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — News from Chad said fighting group supporters of Colonel Kamougue, vice president of the legitimate government in Chad, besieged the town of Mondo for two days then attacked it and controlled its strategic positions. During the attack the group was able to inflict huge damage on the remaining forces of renegade Hissein Habre and forced them to flee the town leaving a large number of dead and injured. The group also captured a huge amount of weapons and ammunition abandoned by Habre's escaping groups.

SUDAN

President Numayri Comments on 'Libyan Plot'

JN301932 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1748 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Al-Fashir, 30 Jul (SUNA) — In a statement to Kordofan Region's radio regarding the Libyan plot recently unearthed by the security organs, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri explained that Libya's colonel is training what he called fedayeen. He supplied them with large amounts of money and weapons to carry out his criminal plans against Sudan, plans that failed to harm Sudan. He also stressed the strength of Sudanese-Egyptian integration and the importance of projects implemented within this framework, which confirms the strength of popular ties between the two peoples. He pointed out that relations between Sudan and Egypt are strong.

President Numayri also stressed the need to convene an African summit conference, especially after the deviation of the current OAU secretary general and some countries and the appearance of slogans about white and black Africa.

President Numayri also praised the national unity between the tribes of (Dinka) and (Al-Masiriyah) in the Kordofan Region and their efforts to display the spirit of brotherhood, love, and unity during the large popular receptions in the region which expressed a popular rally around the revolution and Islamic law.

Numayri Arrives in Al-Ubayyid on Kordofan Tour

JN281123 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Al-Ubayyid, Sudan, 28 Jul (SUNA) — President Numayri and his delegation arrived here this morning amid a mammoth official and popular reception at the beginning of a visit to the Kordofan Region. This visit takes place within the president's current tour of the country's regions to explain the Islamic alms [zakat] and tax law.

It is worth noting that President Numayri visited the Central, Northern, and Eastern Regions this month within his tour of the country's regions.

Numayri Addresses Infantry Brigade

JN301058 Khartoum SUNA in English 1000 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Al-Ubayyid, Sudan, 30 Jul (SUNA) — Officers and troops of the First Infantry Brigade, the General Military Area Command yesterday swore bayah (allegiance) to President Numayri at their headquarters here. Commanding officer Major-General Mustafa Khalafallah read out the oath and the troops repeated it after him.

President Numayri in a speech on the occasion praised the role he said played by the Central Command for the unity of the Sudan since the days of colonialism. Of those who talk about human rights, Numayri indicated in his address the ignorance of these people of the fact that the Islamic method uplifts the humanity of man.

He said the application of Islamic laws would clear the society of thieves for tens of years and after the formation of the Islamic society there will be no poor nor needy. [words indistinct] the troops to behave with Islamic precepts and said crimes would be punishable by demotion or dismissal from the Arab forces.

Steps he said were being taken at the High Command for the promotion of long-service of retired non-commissioned officers and soldiers irrespective of their age provided that their behaviour in the service was good to make use of their experience owing to the large intake of new recruits. He referred to the conscription of [words indistinct] for two years service in the Armed Forces.

Earlier Major-General Khalafallah gave a speech of welcome to the president expressing the loyalty of the military hospital and Kordofan Region Governor Al-Fatih Bishahrah offered to build an x-ray section at the hospital.

Numayri Addresses Police, Fire Brigades

JN301115 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Al-Ubayyid, Sudan, 30 Jul (SUNA) — President Ja'far Numayri Sunday addressed the regular forces comprising the Police Prisons Game and Fire Brigade Forces of the Kordofan Region following their fealty of allegiance to him on the holy Koran and Prophet Muhammad's deeds and sayings. He pointed out the neglible attitude of the past governments in failing to spread religious enlightenment and their failure in relying on secular laws which a had prompted the declaration of the state of emergency to rid the country of the corrupt and the criminals who had hitherto thrived. The president urged the regular forces to remain committed to virtue and avoid evil temptations.

President Numayri Arrives in Darfur Region

JN301105 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Al-Fashir, Sudan, 30 Jul (SUNA) — President Numayri arrived here this morning on a short visit to Darfur Region in the context of his regional tour to explain zakat (alms) act and to receive bayah (allegiance). Moreover President Numayri will meet here today with regional government national work leaders and leaders of regular forces. He will address the nation this evening through a gathering on the occasion. Before concluding his visit President Numayri will tomorrow Tuesday receive fealty from Armed Forces and the rest of regular forces.

Discusses Chad in Speech

JN301935 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Al-Fashir, 30 Jul (SUNA) — President Ja'far Numayri has said: We understand the fraternal [Chadian] people's ordeal, and are closely watching by its national government and President Hissein Habre to unify the people's ranks. We will support every effort aimed at restoring unity to the Chadian homeland, without any pressure or conditions.

In his speech during a popular meeting in Al-Fashir in Darfur Region this evening, the president added: We will continue our support for Chad and its national government and back its national unity. We will support its efforts and those of the good sons of Africa until its kinfolk return to their country under the banner of stability and true national unity.

Addressing Darfur's citizens, President Numayri said: Part of the difficulties in this region are due to the bitter sufferings of the fraternal people on your border, people who are dominated by some foolish sides and are forced to experience conflict, fighting, and bloodshed as well as the expulsion from their country into your region. O brothers, we know that despite all circumstances, you never refrain from welcoming your guests.

He added: The people of Darfur region, adjacent to areas of political conflict and close to those who plotted against our country, should be alert and vigilant. We have previously witnessed abortive attempts to export terror to Sudan, and we have disclosed several Libyan plots against Sudan's unity and the region's stability.

During the past years, you experienced attempts to launch aggressions against your cities and villages, and we know that Sudan's enemies aim at this region, its kinfolk, and its soil. We know that the plots being concocted against Sudan and against you are being planned in the occupation camps in Chadian territories close to your border. These camps also concoct conspiracies against Sudan.

President Numayri added: It is your duty toward your homeland and toward your belonging to this land to be alert and vigilant. We are confident that in moments of danger you will be fortresses that will safeguard the homeland and foil the conspiracies.

President Numayri continued: We are going to implement conpulsory national service. This will enable youths to serve the homeland, to confirm their loyalty to their people, and to ipitomize their belonging by defending the land and unity with every possible effort.

We will send some of our qualified youth enlisted in the national service to positions in production and public services to remedy the shortage in professional cadres. The Darfur Region, which suffers a shortage in some professional cadres, will have a share of these youths so that it can remedy deficiencies in its public services and production sectors.

President Numayri added: Compulsory national service will never be a burden on the homeland's economy, as some people imagine, and the soldier will not remain relaxed in the camps. The national service will result in serving the homeland and the citizens, especially when some of them are allowed to defend the country and to serve the citizens in schools, farmers, factories, hospitals, and various positions of national service.

Discharges Darfur Region Minister

JN301533 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Al-Fashir, 30 Jul (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has issued a decision discharging Ma'mun Muhammadi Ahmad, minister of housing, water, and public utilities in Darfur Region, from his office at the recommendation of the region's governor. President Numayri noticed during a celebration in Al-Fashir this morning that the minister was intoxicated. A medical commission then proved that he was 55 percent drunk. [as received] He was referred to the decisive justice court for trial.

National Peace Council Appeals for Dialogue

JN301108 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Jul (SUNA) — The National Council for Friendship Solidarity and Peace issued a statement today appealing for peaceful dialogue instead of warring among brothers. Sudan has known through its seventeen years of fraternal strife that sincere and peaceful methods built on good will were the basis for a spirited national dialogue the statement said.

It said the peaceful conclusion of the 17-years civil war and the achievement of peace and stability in the Sudan had served as a model for other Third World nations. The statement further called on all who believe in national unity and all the brothers in the neighbouring countries to respond to the plea and abandon violence as a means of attaining ends.

Concluding the statement [it] blamed world tension and superpower rivalry for causing instability in Third World countries.

Briefs

Outgoing Omani Ambassador — Khartoum, 30 Jul (SUNA) — Dr Hasan 'Abdallah at-Turabi, the president's assistant for foreign policy, received here today Omani Ambassador 'Isa Muhammad 'Ali on the occasion of the latter's end of term of office in Sudan. At-Turabi wished him success in his new post. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1453 GMT 30 Jul 84 JN]

WESTERN SAHARA

APS: Saharan Forces Atack Moroccans in Amgala

LD301248 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Liberated Regions, 30 July 84, APS — A statement issued by the Saharan Ministry of Information yesterday, Sunday, said that a unit of the Saharan People's Liberation Army has attacked Moroccan occupation forces centered in [word indistinct] in the Amgala region. The statement explained that in the course of two attacks, each of which continued for an hour, about 10 Moroccan soldiers were killed and many wounded. The statement said that a huge amount of military equipment was destroyed.

CAMEROON

Biya Receives Special Envoy From Gabon 30 July

AB302030 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya, this morning at state house received in audience a special envoy from his Gabonese counterpart, Alhaji Omar Bongo. The envoy, Guy Nzouba-Ndama, who is the minister delegate to the Gabonese minister of commerce, told reporters that he was bearer of an undisclosed message. Mr Ndama expressed satisfaction with the result of the recently held Cameroon-Gabon joint commission which took place in Yaounde about a month ago. He commended the work of the delegates of the commission as a reflection of their membership in the Central African Customs and Economic Union and the recently formed Central African Economic Union.

Asked about press accusations that relations between Cameroon and Gabon at this moment are unhealthy, Mr Ndama said such accusations were characterized by mediocrity. Finally, he described relations between Cameroon and Gabon as excellent and unclouded and regretted the fact that Africans allow foreign powers to act as arbiters for African affairs.

CHAD

Habre Envoy on Brazzaville Meeting, Visit to Senegal

AB301610 Paris AFP in French 1344 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Dakar, 30 Jul (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre is to visit Senegal, Chadian Finance Minister Elie Romba announced during an interview with the Senegalese daily *LE SOLEIL*, without giving the date of this visit.

Mr Romba, who left Dakar after delivering a message from the Chadian president to Senegalese head of state Abdou Diouf, said that he briefed Diouf on developments in Chad as well as on efforts being made by Ndjamena in view of the forthcoming Brazzaville conference on national reconciliation.

On this issue, the Chadian minister informed *LE SOLEIL* that [while] the Ndjamena government was willing to hold negotiations with the opposition movements it will not compromise over Hissein Habre's functions as head of state and Chad's integrity, asserting that those two points "were not negotiable."

Mr Romba said that President Habre would have "full powers to discuss with the opposition movements" and that the members of the present government were ready to resign in order to enable him to form a new cabinet which will include the present Chadian opposition elements. The Chadian minister also underlined the need to hold preliminary meetings before the conference in order to "clear the way" and "to solve protocol problems so as to tackle the essential points." "We also wish the meeting to be held between Chadians alone without any outside influence or pressure," the minister said.

He finally said that the anticipated outcome of the Brazzaville conference would be "the beginning of the end of Chad's martyrdom, the denunciation of the pernicious role of Libyan head of state Al-Qadhdhafi, and the reconciliation of the Chadian brothers for construction of a new Chad."

Elie Romba finally announced the forthcoming visit of a delegation of the new Chadian political party, the National Union for Independence and Revolution (UNIR) to Dakar. This visit is aimed at "learning from the vast political experience" of Senegal where 15 political parties exist, he added.

UNIR Central Committee Meets Under Habre

AB301600 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] The Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR] held a meeting yesterday in the grand conference hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation under the chairmanship of UNIR Chairman President Hissein Habre. The communique released to the press on the meeting announced that five issues were on the agenda.

The first point was the appointment of the members of the Commission of Control and Verification of the UNIR, the second point concerned the appointment of members of the Central Committee Judicial Commission, while the third point touched on the study of the draft standing orders of the UNIR. The fourth point concerned the study of the setting up of a commission in charge of the preparation of the congress documents. The last point concerned miscellaneous issues.

Concerning the first point, the UNIR chairman, Comrade Hissein Habre, proposed to the members of the Central Committee a list of names recommended by the Executive Bureau. The list was unanimously adopted. So the following persons are members of the Commission of Control and Verification: Mbobo Ngarbi Fallou, Dissouare Adibi Tandja, Bina Oundar, Minita Sagam, and Tchanasa Kaltoua.

Concerning the second point, six commissions were created; they are the Commission on General Policy and Foreign Relations, the Commission on Economic Affairs and Development, the Commission on National Defense and Security, the Commission on Administrative and Judicial Affairs, the Commission on Social Affairs and Health, and the Commission on Communication and Territorial Development.

After a 4-hour session, the UNIR suspended its deliberations without examinig all the issues on its agenda, but only after President Hissein Habre brought up the recent cabinet reshuffle of 24 July. The deliberations will resume tomorrow morning.

CONGO

Congress Reelects Sassou-Nguesso as President

AB310730 Paris AFP in English 0713 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Brazzaville, July 31 (AFP) — The third congress of Congo's ruling Labour Party re-elected Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso as president of the country Monday night. Officials here said the 771 congress delegates voted unanimously for Col Sassou-Nguesso, who was also re-elected leader of the party's Central Committee. The president's powers during his new 5-year mandate are expected to be considerably strengthened, as the congress decided on Saturday to change the constitution to make the head of state head of the government as well. There has been no official word on the position of the present prime minister, Col Luis-Sylvain Goma. President Sassou-Nguesso, 41, became Congolese leader in 1979 when Col Joachim Yhombi-Opango resigned as head of the then ruling military committee of the party. During the years of the Marien Ngouabi military regime (1968-77), Col Sassou-Nguesso emerged as a hardline Marxist and chief representative of the party's militant faction. Under his rule in the past five years, however, Congo has operated a liberal and flexible investment code in a bid to win private and foreign finance for the 1982-86 5-year plan.

The congress met late into the night to select a new Central Committee and enlarged its membership to 75, an increase of 15. The party's former number two, Jean-Pierre Thystere Tchicaya, was dropped, official sources said, without giving any reason. Nine new committee members include one-time Premier Ambroise Nouma Zalaye, Planning Minister Pierre Moussa, Information Minister Daniel Abibi, and armed forces chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Emmanuel Elenga.

Angolan Accuses RSA of Violating Lusaka Agreement

MB301745 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Lucio Lara, the secretary for organization of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, has accused South Africa of not respecting the Lusaka compromises which were jointly agreed upon with Angola on the withdrawal of its troops from the south of the country. Addressing one of the working sessions of the Third Congolese Labor Congress in Brazzaville, where he represents the MPLA-Labor Party, Lucio Lara also said that international imperialism uses blackmail when it attempts to link the issue of Namibian independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. He reaffirmed the position reiterated by Angola and Cuba with regard to this issue.

Lucio Lara recalled that the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 is the only way to the solution of the Namibian problem because only the withdrawal of the South African troops beyond the Orange River will diminish the danger of South African aggression to Angola and lead to the gradual withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops over a period of time to be agreed upon by both governments.

Angolan Denies Talks Planned With RSA Prime Minister

MB310715 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The president of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, has sent a message to Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Congolese head of state, which was delivered yesterday by Comrade Lucio Lara, the organizing secretary of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party.

Lucio Lara is in Brazzaville representing the MPLA-Labor Party at the Third Congolese Workers Party Congress. After handing over the message, Lucio Lara addressed the press in Brazzaville and denied the report carried by a Portuguese newspaper on a probable [presumivel] meeting between the Angolan head of state and Pieter Botha, the South African prime minister. Lucio Lara said that the news was false and had no foundation whatever.

ZAIRE

AFP Reports on Election Atmosphere in Provinces

AB301348 Paris AFP in French 1243 GMT 30 Jul 84

[By Bernard Loth]

[Excerpts] Lubumbashi, 30 Jul (AFP) — Peace and security were the two watchwords of the campaign undertaken by the authorities of the strategic Zairian region of Shaba and of the two Kasai regions (in the south-eastern part of the country) to incite the people to vote "100 percent" for President Mobutu Sese Seko, the only candidate for this third 7-year mandate.

As in other regions in Zaire, the election campaign was marked in Lubumbashi, the chief city of Shaba Region, as well as in Mbuji-Mayi, the chief city of Kasai Oriental Region, and in Kananga, the chief city of Kasai Occidental Region, by several meetings, marches of support, and ward meetings. All these activities were organized and supervised by the regional leaders of the party, the MPR, of which all Zairians are members by right from birth.

Lubumbashi, the copper capital: like all the main cities of the country, Lubumbashi adorned itself for the 2 days of voting on 28 and 29 July with numerous streamers affirming the "lasting attachment of the populations" to the "leader of the revolution, the Founding Chairman Mobutu."

The diamond towns of Mbuji-Mayi and Kananga: most of the people of Mbuji-Mayi and Kananga (respectively with a population of 250,000 and 500,000), Zaire's two main diamond centers — the first produces industrial diamonds while the second produces gem diamonds — voted as early as Saturday, the first day of the election.

CAPE VERDE

President Pereira Leaves for Angolan Visit

AB301205 Paris AFP in French 1104 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Dakar, 30 Jul (AFP) — Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira left Praia on Monday morning for Angola. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Silvino da Luz.

He said before his departure that his visit was within the framework of his activities as coordinator for southern African problems of the group of the five Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Sao Tome). The Cape Verdian head of state declined to make any comment on the meeting between the delegations of the SWAPO and South Africa which took place last week in Cape Verde. However, he stressed the need to find a peaceful solution to the Namibian problem.

Says Namibian Problems Surmountable

MB301341 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] President Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde says the latest difficulties in negotiations over the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia can be overcome. He was speaking before his departure for a working visit to Angola.

President Pereira hosted the fruitless talks between SWAPO and the administrator-general of South-West Africa/Namibia last week. The president, who is to meet President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola during his stay, did not say when he thought negotiations over the territory might be resumed.

To See Nujoma

MB301632 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] President Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde has left for Luanda for talks with Angolan and SWAPO leaders in what is described as an attempt to salvage talks with South Africa which broke down last week. On leaving for the island of Sal where the Angolan presidential aircraft was to pick him up, President Pereira said it was possible to overcome the current negotiating difficulties, but added that secrecy was the heart of negotiation.

He is expected to try and persuade the leader of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma, to show flexibility in negotiations with South Africa.

IVORY COAST

EEC's Pisani Received by President, Comments

AB302045 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic yesterday afternoon received Mr Edgar Pisani, the European commissioner for development, in audience at his private residence at Cocody. Mr Pisani was on his way back from Dakar where he attended the conference on desert encroachment in Africa. The cocoa agreement and the OAU were the main topics of his discussion with the head of state:

[Begin Pisani recording] On the first topic, the president tried in a forceful and detailed manner to make me understand how important this cocoa agreement is, and in this regard he displayed a striking geninus for details. He stressed how important it is for the Ivory Coast and for Africa for the results of the current negotiations on the cocoa agreement to be positive; that is, that they provide farmers with satisfactory resources and also give the producing countries satisfactory export resources. I briefed him on the provisions being made by the EEC in support of this stance and also on the difficulties we will inevitably encounter since the United States is reluctant about or even opposed to this agreement.

In regard to the OAU, he recounted for us the history of the OAU, its origins, the confrontations at the beginning, and the political choice made later in order to have a single organization. It is a forum for bringing together heads of state on the basis of respect for traditional borders. He told of his past experiences and made political analyses and mentioned some personalities. He did all this in an extraordinarily rich, historical, and human context. This is perhaps the first time I have contemplated the OAU from such a rich and warm perspective. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Assembly To Review Party Registration Guidelines

AB302145 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Guidelines for the registration of political parties in Liberia will be presented to the Interim National Assembly within the next 2 weeks for review. Special Elections Commission Cochairman Albert T. Wai disclosed this information in an interview with the LIBERIA NEWS AGENCY, LINA, today. He said after the assembly had reviewed the documents, they would then be published in the local press to ensure that adequate information is given the public about the requirements before the registration of political parties would begin.

MALI

Bamako Reports on Joint Commission Talks With Algeria

AB301153 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] The fifth session of the Algerian-Malian Joint Commission was held in Algiers during the week, under the joint chairmanship of Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, and his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. The Algerian and Malian sides examined in particular ways to bolster cooperation which is a necessary factor for economic integration and bringing the people together. During the meeting of the Joint Commission, the two sides once again stressed the exemplary cooperation between Algeria and Mali which is based on relations of good political neighborliness. They also agreed to do everything to strengthen this bilateral cooperation which they described as a model of South-South cooperation.

It will be noted that the Algerian-Malian cooperation increased since 1983 and covers several fields such as efforts to overcome the limitations of Mali's land-locked situation, cooperation between Malian and Algerian national airlines, hydrocarbons, and training.

The Malian and Algerian foreign ministers also discussed international issues, in particular the situation in Africa. It was noted after the talks that they shared similar views on all current issues. It will also be noted that Alioune Blondin Beye, who was bearer of a message from President Moussa Traore, to his brother and friend President Chadli Bendjedid, was received at Oran by the Algerian head of state.

NIGERIA

Buhari Appeals to Neighbors on Illegal Trafficking

AB310836 Lagos NAN in English 0821 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 30 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today in Lagos appealed for the cooperation of Nigeria's neighbours in stamping out currency trafficking and importation of illegal goods, especially tobacco and drugs. Maj Gen Buhari made the appeal when a delegation of the foreign ministers of Togo, Benin and Niger Republic visited him at Dodan Barracks. The ministers had come with special messages from their heads of state for Maj Gen Buhari.

Maj Gen Buhari said that Nigerian industries were relatively young and needed protection. He said that Nigeria had allowed certain products, especially petroleum and relief materials, to pass to its neighbours to alleviate their suffering and urged countries in the sub-region to cooperate with each other to ensure the security of the region.

The leader of the delegation, Mr Anani Akakpo-Ahianyo of Togo, said that he had come with messages of support for, and cooperation with, Nigeria in its efforts to revamp its economy. He said that a rapid solution to Nigeria's economic problem would benefit the sub-region and called for regular consultations on problems affecting countries in the region. Nigeria and the three countries are members of ECOWAS. The other two foreign ministers are Mr Tiaminu Adjibade of Benin and Mr Ide Oumarou of Niger.

Governor Calls for Northern Border Demarcation

AB301334 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 30 (AFP) — Major-General Abubakar Waziri, governor of Borno State along Nigeria's northern border with Chad, has called for proper demarcation of Nigeria's frontiers.

He told External Affairs Minister Ibrahim Gambari at the week-end in the state capital of Maiduguri that ill-defined boundaries could result in serious consequences. Gen Waziri also urged a clear cut programme to enable Nigeria to cater adequately for the war-displaced people from Chad. He said the problem of Chadian refugees in Nigeria was unique because unlike others the Chadians could not be sent home after brief resettlement in view of the war in their country. "We cannot fail them because they need our help," he said.

Mr Gambari last week said Nigeria had asked the United Nations high commissioner for refugees to establish settlements and farms to help displaced people in the country. He said the estimated 50,000 refugees in Nigeria, mainly Chadians, gave Nigeria one of the highest concentration of refugees in the world.

'Consultant' Calls for Temporary Break With UK

AB301310 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] It has been suggested that Nigeria should break diplomatic relations with Britain for a limited period to show her disapproval of the way that country has become an obstacle to her development efforts.

A public affairs consultant, Dr Bimbo Oshifoso, said Britain had taken Nigeria for granted for too long as if the country had no national interests to protect. He was speaking in a Radio Nigeria current affairs program "Behind the Headlines" in Lagos yesterday. Dr Oshifoso noted that the Umaru Dikko affair brought into play British racism and the desire of that country to continue the master-servant relations that existed during the colonial era. He remarked that this was a good opportunity for Nigeria to break the umbilical cord that has enabled Britain to exploit her for selfish and at times hypocritical interests.

On the fugitives, Dr Oshifoso urged the Federal Government to make a blanket request for their repatriation as it was dangerous to leave the others abroad. He said that a piecemeal approach would only give Britain and the United States enough time for legal maneuvers.

Dailies View U.S., UK Attitudes Over Dikko Case

AB281130 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Two papers, the *NIGERIAN TIDE* and the *PUNCH* examine the general attitude of the British and American Governments to the Dikko affair. The *TIDE* partially welcomes the decision of President Reagan's administration to cancel the visa of fugitive Umaru Dikko. It, however, suggests that the administration should cancel the resident permits of other Nigerian fugitives residing in the United States. The *PUNCH*, on its part, explains that the British prime minister has adopted a negative attitude over the diplomatic crisis.

Decree on Military Courts for Armed Forces Issued

AB310826 Lagos NAN in English 0815 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 30 (NAN) — A new decree, known as the Military Court (Special Powers) Decree, has been promulgated by the Federal Military Government. The decree sets up a military court for the enforcement of discipline in the Armed Forces and it may be convened by the commanding officer of a unit of the Armed Forces. Known as Decree No 23, it gives to courts, convened under the decree, all the powers of a general court martial other than the power to impose a penalty of death or a sentence of imprisonment for a term exceeding 5 years. The court is to have the powers conferred on it to the exclusion of other courts.

Offences triable by a court under the decree are mutiny, failure to suppress mutiny, insubordintion, behaviour offences in relation to public and service propety, offences in relation to property of members of the forces, making of false documents, and miscellaneous offences relating to property. The decree stipulates that a court set up under the decree shall consist of a president and not less than two other officers, all of whom are to be appointed by the commanding officer of the unit. It further stipulated that an officer shall not be appointed a member of a court unless he has held commission in the armed forces for a continuous period of not less than 2 years. A decision of the court, in the case of commissioned officer, is to be chanelled through the service chief to the Army Council, the Navy Board or the Air Force Council for confirmation. The decree further makes provisions for an appeal in the case of commissioned officer to the commander-in-chief.

SMC Calls for Implementation of Money-Recovery Order

AB281225 Lagos NAN in English 1021 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 27, (NAN) — The Supreme Military Council [SMC] has directed that all orders made for the recovery of money both from individuals and organisations by the special military tribunals in Ibadan and Enugu be carried out within 1 month. A statement from the Cabinet Office in Lagos today said that the directives, which took effect from July 25, were given for avoidance of doubt by the SMC at its sixth meeting which took place in Lagos on Tuesday. [sentence as received]

The statement said that the orders of the tribunals confirmed by the SMC included those on the former civilian governor of Anambra State, Chief Jim Nwobodo, and the secretary to his government, Mr Paul Egbogu, at the Enugu zone. At the Ibadan zone, the orders of the tribunal confirmed by the SMC included those on the former governor of Bendel, Prof Ambrose Alli, two former commissioners in his government, and the ex-governor of Kwara, Alhaji Adamu Attah.

The Cabinet Office statement said that the Supreme Military Council directed that about 5.9 million naira, which Chief Nwobodo and Mr Egbogu were found guilty of corruptly enriching themselves and some others with, be forfeited to the Federal Military Government. It also said that the SMC further directed that the sum of (?1) million naira with which Chief Nwobodo was found guilty of corruptly enriching the proscribed Nigerian People's Party (NPP) be forfeited to the Federal Military Government. The statement said that a special investigation panel would proceed to "investigate promptly for purposes of recovery and/or prosecution for the government" money that was paid to certain persons out of the two accounts involved in the case against Chief Nwobodo and Mr Egbogu. It named the persons as: Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya, Chief Edwin Ume Ezeoke, former Senator Isaiah Ani, Chief F.C. Obi, Klatz Engineering Company Company, Umeomili Enterprises, Nigerian Technical Company Ltd., Cooperative and Commerce Bank (Nigeria) Ltd., and NPP, Njikoka branch.

In the Ibadan zone, the SMC directed that Alhaji Adamu Attah pay to the Federal Military Government the sum of N2 million which he took from the security vote "when he had barely a month to go as governor" of Kwara. The SMC also directed that Professor Alli refund to the Federal Government the sum of N983,000 while Mr Augustine Omolaiye, a former commissioner, should pay back 100,000 pounds sterling. Each of the 42 former legislators in the Kwara State House of Assembly is to pay back to the Federal Military Government N40,000 "fraudulently obtained as constituency allowance," the Cabinet Office statement said.

Army Seeks To Resettle Dependents Off Posts

AB291102 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] The adjutant general of the Nigerian Army, Brigadier N.M. (Nasarawa), has appealed to friends and relatives to assist their sons and brothers in the Army to resettle their civilian dependents outside the barracks. Reacting to a news item credited to him in the latest edition of *SOLDIER*, Brig (Nasarawa) explained that the decision to eject civilian dependents above 18 from the barracks was an Army policy. He stated that the move was part of the efforts of the Army authorities to enforce existing rules and regulations in the barracks.

The adjutant general said apart from providing a collective place of living for the soldiers and their families, the barracks housed military equipment, arms, and other security items. Brig (Nasarawa) added that it was therefore imperative that adequate security measures should be taken not only to prevent accessibility to these vital areas in the barracks by unauthorized persons but also to control movements and population within the barracks.

CONCORD Puzzled by Liberian Leaders's Stand

AB300945 Lagos International Service in English
0830 GMT 30 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *NATIONAL CONCORD* takes a look at the events in Liberia. The paper does not quite understand the role Master Sergeant Doe is playing in the country's plan for a return to civilian government. The *CONCORD* calls on the Liberian leader to clear the air on his stand.

Kaduna State Passes Law To Check Religious 'Fanatics'

AB301110 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0900 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The Kaduna State Government has enacted an edict regulating religious preaching in the state. Addressing newsmen on Friday on the achievements and (?problems) of the military administration in the state, the state commissioner for home affairs and information, Mr (Lamak Audu), said that the edict became necessary to check the excesses of over-zealous religious preachers and fanatics in the state.

The commissioner said that only learned and responsible religious leaders would preach in the open air after obtaining (?clearance) from Jama'atu Nasril Islam [Islamic Organization in Nigeria] for Muslims and the Christian Association of Nigeria for Christians.

SENEGAL

Portugal's Gama Ends Visit; Communique Issued

AB301130 Paris AFP in French 1302 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] Dakar, 29 Jul (AFP) — Senegal and Portugal hope for a lasting solution to the conflicts in Chad and Western Sahara that will guarantee peace and stability there on the basis of the decisions made by the 19th OAU summit.

According to a joint communique issued on Sunday at the end of the 2-day visit to Senegal by Mr Jaime Matos da Gama, the Portuguese minister of foreign affairs, the latter and his Senegalese counterpart, Mr Moustapha Niasse, also underscored their attachment to the implementation of the set conditions for Namibia's independence, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 435.

According to the communique, they also noted current efforts underway to restore peace in southern Africa, particularly the agreements signed between South Africa and Angola on the one hand and that with Mozambique on the other.

The communique finally stated that the two ministers stressed the need to exploit all avenues that offer themselves to strengthen cooperation between Senegal and Portugal in the economic, technical, and cultural fields. They agreed on convening a meeting of the joint commission set up between the two countries next November.

During his stay, Mr Gama was received by Mr Abdou Diouf, the president of the Republic of Senegal.

UPPER VOLTA

SIDWAYA on Sawadogo Assassination Attempt

AB301805 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 29 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the headline "Abominable Attempt on Major Sawadogo's Life," the *SIDWAYA* writes on the attempt on the life of the deputy chief of staff of the national Army. The paper says that at about 2100 [GMT] last Wednesday night, Major Sawadogo was driving with his sister-in-law behind Yarardo Hospital when a Peugeot pick-up van pulled alongside them and opened fire with a Kalashnikov rifle before disappearing into the darkness. The officer was wounded in one eye and in the wrist while his sister-in-law was wounded in the shoulder. He was then evacuated to Paris where he underwent a successful operation, the paper continues.

The *SIDWAYA* reveals that the attempt was not broadly commented on to enable the investigation now underway to be conducted properly and in order to arrest the authors of the attempt for whom a revolutionary punishment is awaiting.

The paper writes that a few days before the anniversary of our revolution, the enemies of the people mean to disparage the National Council of the Revolution through this abominable attempt. But all the necessary steps will be taken to ensure the security of the people who are determined to commemorate their takeover of power under good conditions, the paper adds.

SADCC Report Stresses Agriculture, Transport

MB271523 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1125 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] The Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] annual report released in Gaborone, which covers the period from July 1983 to June 1984, has given agriculture a priority in domestic policies of most member states of the organization.

According to the report, transport and communications had been given primacy within the context of SADCC's regional cooperation based on the need to strengthen and support national policies, aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in food, and ensuring that agriculture becomes a dynamic sector in national economy. However, transport and communications was given a high priority because of the need for a funadmental reorientation of the historic transport pattern which makes most of the SADCC states route through South Africa.

The overall aim of the organization is to reduce the existing economic dependence of South Africa. Other aims stated are: to speed up the implementation of approved projects; to increase the commitment of pledges to specific projects; and to accelerate the disbursement of funds as well as to improve operational coordination in the various sectors of the transport and communication system in the region.

Meanwhile, in food security the total cost of projects amount to some $172.6 million funded by a combination of grants and loans from international organizations and some developed countries.

New SADCC Executive Secretary Takes Up Post

MB261452 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1125 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] The new executive secretary of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC], Dr Simba Makoni, of Zimbabwe, today pledged his dedication to the aims and objectives of the regional organization.

Dr Makoni arrived in Gaborone yesterday to familiarize himself with issues related to his new assignment. He did not say when he would be taking office. He met the chairman of the SADCC Council of Ministers, the vice president, Mr Peter Mmusi, this morning. Dr Makoni, who was appointed by the annual SADCC summit in Gaborone earlier this month, takes over the post left vacant by Mr Arthur Blumeris, who died in March this year. The administrative secretary in the office of the president, Mr Lebang Mpotokwane, has been acting executive secretary of the SADCC.

Dr Makoni told BOPA [Botswana Press Agency] in an interview this morning that a great deal could be achieved by working together, adding that SADCC was a very important institution both regionally and internationally because of the growing need for cooperation in the world. He also said that SADCC motivated cooperative self-reliance for development. Dr Makoni described his new position as very challenging and added that he felt very honored that the SADCC summit had considered him suitable for the position. He said that his position as SADCC executive secretary was more challenging than the ministerial post he held in the Zimbabwe Government until his appointment.

Dr Makoni had been Zimbabwe's minister of industry and energy development since independence in 1980 until earlier this year when he was transferred to the post of minister of youth, sports, and culture. He said that as a minister in Zimbabwe he was dealing with the affairs of one country, while as SADCC executive secretary he will be dealing with the affairs of nine countries.

ANGOLA

U.S. Made Mine Blamed for Luanda Port Explosion

MB311254 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Headline: "Explosion at Luanda Port"]

[Summary] Luanda, 31 Jul (Angop) — An official source in Luanda today reported that (words indistinct) "carrying foodstuffs which had anchored at Luanda port" was (?hit by an explosion).

(?According to the same source), "U.S. made mines caused the explosion which is aimed at creating panic and disrupting the distribution of foodstuffs to the memebrs of the public."

According to the source, [words indistinct] "was severely damaged." "In spite of this terrorist action, Luanda port continues to operate in its normal atmosphere."

LESOTHO

Sixishe Accuses RSA of Preventing Arms Deliveries

MB301810 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The BBC reports that Lesotho has accused the South African Government of deliberately preventing British arms from reaching the country. The Lesotho minister of information, Mr Desmond Sixishe, claims that the weapons, mainly light arms for the country's paramilitary force, are being held back to force Lesotho to sign a nonaggression pact. He said the British Government had been asked to intercede with the South African Government but had not used enough pressure to get the arms released. Mr Sixishe said South Africa had also prevented a number of helicopters bought from Italy from reaching Lesotho. BBC reports quote a spokesman for the South African Department of Foreign Affairs as saying that countries have the right to control the movement of arms across their territories, especially when they are concerned about security.

Issue To Go to UN

MB310705 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1900 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Lesotho is to raise the matter of right of passage through South Africa with the UN secretary general and with the World Court. Lesotho Information Minister Desmond Sixishe says his country wants to establish Lesotho's right of passage across South African territory. He was commenting on reports that a shipment of arms from Britain to Lesotho is being held up by South African authorities.

South African foreign affairs spokesperson [name indistinct] denied the reports, but has said it is every state's right to control the movement of armaments across its territory. Sixishe has indicated it is not the first time imports to Lesotho have been stopped. He said South Africa has in the past prevented Lesotho importing helicopters and spare parts from Italy.

MALAWI

Banda Dissolves District, Regional Committees

MB281140 Blantyre Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] His excellency the life president ngwazi, Dr Kamuzu Banda, in his capacity as life president of the Malawi Congress Party, has dissolved the membership of all regional and district committees of the Malawi Congress Party, League of Malawi Women, and League of Malawi Youth. A spokesman of the party headquarters in Lilongwe said the dissolution of the committees, which was with effect from yesterday, had come about to allow new elections to take place tomorrow throughout the country to elect new committees.

MOZAMBIQUE

Deputy Minister on 'Difficult Economic Situation'

MB301048 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0605 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Second part of speech by Armando Panguene, deputy defense minister and FPLM political commissar, during the opening session of the national seminar of the FPLM Political Commissariat in Nampula — recorded; date not given; first part of speech not processed]

[Excerpts] We are presently facing in our country a difficult and complex economic situation. We must therefore, make major efforts in the work of mobilization and organization of our troops and people at all levels. Not going back far, I should like to point out that this difficult situation began right from 16 March 1976 when our country and government decreed sanctions against the illegal regime of Ian Smith in former southern Rhodesia in compliance with the UN Security Council resolution.

In response to these sanctions that we applied against illegal Rhodesia, imperialism also applied economic sanctions against the People's Republic of Mozambique. We found that all the doors of the world were closed against us because of this political stance which we took in compliance with the decision of the international community.

Besides violating the agreement to pay in gold for services rendered by Mozambicans in South African mines as agreed upon during the colonial period, South African drastically reduced their number from over 120,000 to 40,000. You can now see our loss.

With regard to ports, another very important source of foreign exchange, South Africa abandoned Maputo port. The railroad from Beira to Rhodesia could no longer be used because of sanctions so there was no money coming in as far as the port of Beira was concerned. The Maputo-Chicualacuala railroad also stopped operation because the border had been closed. The South Africans reduced to a minimum the use of Maputo port and diverted all their products to Natal and other ports in South Africa despite the fact that this was more expensive for traders and other businesses there. They preferred to do this in order to punish the People's Republic of Mozambique. The difficult situation we are now experiencing is, therefore, also linked to these above-mentioned factors connected with ports and railroads.

The hunger experienced in the country is the result, besides factors mentioned above, of drought, floods, and cyclone Domoina which hit the south of our country destroying plantations and decimating our cattle. This is the law of underdevelopment: When there is drought, we die of hunger because seeds do not germinate. When there is rain in abundance, we have no mechanisms to control the course of rivers which destroy the plantations. It is a vicious circle.

Direct loss resulting from drought in the south of the country during the 1982-83 agricultural campaign is estimated at over 6 million contos affecting over 4.5 million people. Agricultural production in the country is low. There is no self-sufficiency in food. Whereas in the Province of Cabo Delgado substantial improvements are expected for the 1983-84 agricultural campaign, in Tete and southern provinces natural disasters and the action of armed bandits have caused extremely serious hunger. There can be food — maize, beans, sorghum — in Cabo Delgado and Niassa, but how can we transport this maize or sorghum to the central or southern region? We have no ships to transport these foodstuffs; we have no roads from the Rovuma to Maputo Rivers. Conseqently, the residents of Niassa and Cabo Delgado can eat to one's fill but there is no way we can transport that food to other areas of our country.

Industrial production is below the essential needs of our people. We lack consumer goods such as soap, production instruments, medicine, footwear, clothes, uniforms, blankets, and sheets. There are many reasons for this. Our factories are equipped with second-hand or old machinery acquired from Europe. And these factories, I should call them small factories, were established to process a limited number of products into the final stage or to package imported products with the aimd of exporting them.

Accordingly, our factories are not directed toward satisfying the needs of our people. I would better put it this way: Here in our country, we still do not possess factories aimed at serving our people. Only since the proclamation of independence have we had projects to serve our people. We now have Mozambique textile here in Nampula, the Mocuba textile factory, a blanket factory in Cabo Delgado, and a number of other factories that we have established for our people.

Another factor responsible for the difficult economic situation in our country is poor economic management. This leads to low productivity. And as is always the case, we experience a shortage of raw materials which can be imported with the availability of foreign exchange. Foreign exchange is not obtained from the earth, nor does it fall from the sky. Throughout the world, foreign exchange is obtained by a country's capacity to export. We do not possess that capacity. We no longer export what is sufficient and hence we are short of foreign exchange. What is more, the foreign exchange we are able to obtain we must use to buy oil, trucks, tractors, spare parts. It is a grave situation.

Added to these factors is the indiscipline of workers in general. This indiscipline results form the lack of notion of responsibility. There is laxity due to lack of political awareness of workers. There is incompetence and this incompetence is due to shortage of cadres. When we say cadres we do not only mean the learned, a doctor or a graduate. That is not what we mean. When we refer to cadres, we mean poeple with political, patriotic, professional, and technical skills. We need to be good politicians together with a knowledge of how to run the machinery because it is not through talking that we can solve the problem of production and the functioning of machinery. We must possess all these skills.

Besides internal and external factors, the actions of armed bandits have contributed to the deterioration of the situation in our country. The activities of armed bandits is one of the destabilizing factors of our economy and social integrity. The armed bandits destroy hospitals, schools, farms, bridges, roads, railroads, and other economic and social infrastructures. They maim and murder our people. They rape women and minors and prevent the people from producing and living in peace. The loss caused by the aggression of armed bandits as of early this year is estimated at $3.8 million — about 132 million contos. These losses were immediately reflected in our production, export, supply, economic power, and efficiency. At present prices, this amount could be used for 16 years to supply a population of 13 million people with cloth, dresses, and shoes.

The international economic crisis has also had negative effects on our economy. It is worth noting that the increase in prices of imported products has been higher than that of products we export. In the case of crude oil, for example, prices increased more than 10 times in the last 10 years.

The political commissars must increase their knowledge of this reality to enable them to objectively explain to our soldiers and people the present situation our country. With this knowledge everyone of us will understand the reasons for the shortage of food, clothes, uniforms, boots, paraffin, soap, and other most basic commodities. The tasks of the Mozambique Armed Forces are to look into ways of solving these problems and prevent the enemy from carrying out acts of terror by tirelessly fighting him and heightening the people's vigilance.

Among other national tasks, the Frelimo Party fourth congress defined as our present priorities the fight against hunger and nakedness and the elimination of armed bandits. These tasks defined by the party must be carried out by all sectors of our society. Hunger can only be effectively fought by all the people. It is not the food imports and food donations that we receive that will solve the problem of hunger in our country. We hear that the USSR has offered us wheat, rice, canned food; the GDR has offered us clothes and Italy has offered us that, but that is not going to solve our problem. We must engage ourselves in production — all of us, the Armed Forces and the people in general.

In order to fight nakedness, there is a need for a joint effort of the entire society and the active participation of workers in textile enterprises and in the control of rational distribution of clothes. The fight against armed bandits demands joint efforts of all of us. The people in villages, the workers in enterprises, and farmers must all be integrated in people's militia and local forces in coordination with the Armed Forces in order to once and for all annihilate the armed bandits. Without this, we cannot eliminate the armed bandits. We cannot. We can involve all our Armed Forces with BTR's [Soviet-built armored personnel carrier] and everything else, but if we do not organize and involve the people, we are not going to solve this problem of the bandits. The Mozambique Armed Forces must assume the leadership of this process by ensuring that every citizen is a defender of our socialist fatherland.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Damages Hospital in Mortar Attack on Town

MB310916 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0841 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Windhoek, July 31, SAPA — The northern SWA/Namibian town of Oshakati came under mortar fire from SWAPO today. A SWA Territory Force spokesman said in Windhoek SWAPO had attacked the town with 82-mm mortars, causing damage to the hospital.

No Injuries Reported

MB311221 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The South-West African Territory Force says it has started a follow-up operation after the mortar bomb attack on the town of Oshakati in the north of South-West Africa this morning. In a statement issued in Windhoek, the acting secretary of the Ovambo Administration Board, Mr (Frans Viljoen), said that as far as could be established no one had been injured in the attack. Slight damage was caused to the hospital at the town. According to Mr (Viljoen), SWAPO terrorists were responsible for the abortive attack, and he said that as had happened previously, the attack was not aimed at a specific target, as bombs had fallen over a widespread area in and around Oshakati.

Bomb Explosion Damages Vehicle Repair Shop

MB300850 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0830 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Windhoek, July 30, SAPA — A bomb containing between 400 and 600 grams of high explosives caused damage estimated at R4000 at a motor repair workshop as Tsumeb in northern SWA/Namibia last night, police said in Windhoek today.

The explosive device connected to an MUV-2 timing mechanism went off at 9:17 pm, destroying a petrol pump, damaging two other pumps and shattering windows.

No one was injured in the blast in the town's predominently Coloured residential area of Nomtsoub.

Investigations are continuing.

Six SWAPO Section Leaders Killed in Past 2 Weeks

MB271438 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Six section leaders of the military wing of SWAPO are among the 22 terrorists killed by the security forces in several skirmishes in the operational area in the past 2 weeks. This was announced in a statement issued in Windhoek by the South-West Africa Territory Force. The statement revealed that two of the section leaders were commanders in the so-called special unit of SWAPO. They were Sakkie Andreas Haindengo, a reconnaissance commander, and a company commander named Nangombe. The latest deaths bring to 322 the number of SWAPO terrorists killed by the security forces since the February infiltration.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government: No Comment on Alleged Accord Violation

MB301748 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] A spokesman for the department of Foreign Affairs says the South African Government is involved in a process of dialogue with the Angolan Government and has no comment on reports which have appeared in the press. The spokesman was reacting to a speech by the secretary of the organization of the Central Committee of the MPLA, Mr Lucio Lara, in Brazzaville. Mr Lara was reported to have said that South Africa was not adhering to the agreement on South African troop withdrawal from southern Angola signed in Lusaka. Mr Lara said South Africa was coupling a settlement in South-West Africa with the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. This was not Angola's standpoint on the matter.

Spokesman Refuses Comment on Lesotho Arms Charges

MB301812 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria is not prepared to either confirm or deny reports that South Africa is holding back a shipment of arms from Britain to Lesotho. A spokesman for the department said only that states have the right to control the movements of armaments across their territory, especially when they had security concerns. He added that there could be delays when known procedures were not complied with.

The spokesman was reacting to a BBC report that the Lesotho minister of information, Mr Sixishe, claims that South Africa was holding back the weapons to force Lesotho to sign a non-aggression pact.

Pik Botha Comments on Consulate in New Zealand

MB310731 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says he wants to state clearly that if the New Zealand prime minister, Mr David Lange, has been correctly reported, the South African Government will not make any representation for the continued presence of the South African consul general in New Zealand.

Mr Botha was commenting in Pretoria on a report that New Zealand would close the South African Consulate in Wellington soon. He said that as matters stood at present, New Zealand drew more advantage from the mutual trade between the two countries. Mr Botha said South Africa had not as yet received any official communication on the matter. He said he found it strange that the New Zealand Government did not want to convey its standpoint directly through the accepted channels. The minister said he had instructed the consul general to determine finally what the New Zealand Government's attitude was concerning the South African consulate general in New Zealand.

JANE'S Estimates of Cubans in Angola Discussed

MB301820 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Station commentary: "The Cubans in Angola"]

[Text] The authoritative British defense survey, *JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY*, has cast doubt on the figure of at least 25,000 Cubans in Angola, for years the accepted estimate of Cuban involvement to prop up the MPLA government. Quoting as its source an academic living in Ireland who is writing a book on Cuba's military forces, the publication labels this figure as American propaganda, and says that there are only 5,000 Cuban soldiers in Angola.

This does not tally with what Cuba's own foreign minister, Mr Isidoro Malmierca, said in Paris less than 2 months ago when he put the number of Cuban troops and technical advisers sent to

Angola in the past 8 years at 150,000. This points to an average of about 35,000 at any given time. Five thousand Cubans could also hardly be regarded as a meaningful safeguard against the 50,000-strong UNITA movement of Dr Jonas Savimbi.

The true picture seems to be that several mechanisms are used to disguise the real number of Cubans. Large numbers of Cuban soldiers returning home often feature in news reports, but there are no reliable means of checking how many replacements have already taken over their military duties in Angola. Secondly, the first Cuban contingents arriving in Angola in 1975 with their wives, children, and possessions were mostly ethnic blacks who have by now merged with, and largely become part of, the local population. In addition, new Angolan legislation approved early this year will allow Cubans to remain in Angola for good. They will simply be granted Angolan citizenship after 10 years' residence.

So militarty advisers, troops, or technicians will become farmer-militia, officially no longer soldiers but still ready to be mobilized as an efficient fighting force at short notice, and still taking their orders from Havana and Moscow. Apparently President Castro is none too keen on having his forces back from Angola as the return of thousands of soldiers would further aggravate Cuba's chronic unemployment problem. It would also mean the loss of the estimated $350-500 million per year paid by Angola to keep the Cubans on its soil.

Whether there are 5,000 or five times as many Cubans in Angola, it will be not easy task to persuade them to leave.

UDF Activities Over Weekend Banned in East London

MB271826 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1700 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] A series of United Democratic Front [UDF] activities scheduled for East London this weekend have been banned. A UDF spokesperson has confirmed that a magisterial order has been issued banning all meetings from 0700 tomorrow until Monday morning. A workshop and annual general meeting and a rally are affected by the order. Acting Magistrate (Sarel Nel) said he had reason to believe that public order would be seriously endangered. The ban is in terms of the Internal Security Act and applies to the East London magisterial district.

Five Indian Parties Nominate 90 Candidates

MB301644 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The five Indian political parties which will be taking part in the House of Delegates election on 28th of next month nominated 90 candidates between them when nomination courts sat in the 40 constituencies between 1000 and 1100 this morning. In addition, there are 79 independent candidates who paid their 400 rand deposit.

The National People's Party [NPP] of Mr Amichand Rajbansi nominated 38 candidates; the Solidarity Party of Dr J.N. Reddy,40; the Progressive Independent Party [PIP] of Mr (Faiz Khan),8; the National Democratic Party of Mr M.I. (K [illegible] and the National Federal Party of Mr M.A. (Begg), 2. With the names known of candidates in 28 of the 29 Natal constituencies, there will be 119 candidates for the House of Delegates election in Natal on 28 August.

When nominations closed at 1100 this morning, five political parties had nominated candidates in Natal. There were also 56 independents. There will be multicornered contests in several constituencies. The highest number of candidates will be in Springfield and Phoenix constituencies, each with nine.

There are no uncontested in the province. The Solidarity Party nominated the biggest number of candidates, namely 29. NPP nominated 27.

Our election staff reports that 35 candidates have been nominated for the eight Transvaal seats for the House of Delegates. Only two parties, the NPP and Solidarity, will field candidates in all eight constituencies. The PIP has nominated four candidates in the Transvaal. Fifteen independent candidates have also been nominated, five of whom are allied to the Labor Party. The largest number of candidates for any single seat is six for the Central Rand constituency. This includes the Fordsburg area in Johannesburg. The Transvaal leader of the NPP, Mr (Boetie Abramjee), will stand at Laudium while the national leader of the PIP, Mr (Faiz Khan), will stand in Lenasia East.

In the Northern Transvaal constituency, there are five candidates, three of them independents. Three candidates have been nominated for the Eastern Transvaal constituency.

In the Northwestern Cape Constituency, there are five candidates, three are independents, one represents the NPP, and one represents the Solidarity Party. In the Rylands constituency there is a four cornered contest between two independents and candidates of the Solidarity and NPP. In the Malabar constituency, the only constituency in the Eastern Cape, there are three candidates.

Buthelezi Says Blacks Know Violence Will Fail

MB271632 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] The chief minister for KwaZulu, Chief Buthelezi, says the black people of South Africa clearly understand that the armed struggle will not succeed as the main strategy for liberation. He said that for many decades, blacks in this country had been witness to the fact that the politics of anger and violence had not achieved anything.

Addressing a group of about 20 foreign journalists at Ulundi, Chief Buthelezi said the fact that black South Africans were seeking solutions for this country was clearly demonstrated by the growth in popularity of the Inkatha movement. He said the recent signing of the Nkomati Accord was a demonstration of black Africa turning its back on those who advocated an armed struggle.

SWAZILAND

Defense Minister Leaves for Tour of Taiwan

MB301840 Mbabane Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The minister for defense and youth, Brigadier Fonono Dube, left the country this morning for a few days visit to the Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese Government.

The visit is purely a familiarization tour of the Republic of China. Brigadier Dube is accompanied by his wife and an official. He was seen off at Matsapa Airport by the Chinese ambassador to Swaziland, Mr Chou Tung-hua; principal secretary in the Ministry of Defense, Mr Sipho Hadzebe; and senior Army officers.

ZAMBIA

National Convention Discusses Debt, Broadcasting

MB270940 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Zambia should not get external loans for consumption purposes in view of the big external debt that she already has. This is one of the recommendations by the 3-day third national convention, which ended in Lusaka yesterday morning. According to the recommendations released by resolution secretary at the convention, Mr Ludwig Sondashi, who is also minister of state for labor and social services, the country had suffered a balance of payments deficits and therfore recommended that oil imports should be further reduced by about 12.5 percent, or about one shipload per year, to save about $20 million in foreign exchange. He called for maximum use of local sources of energy such as electricity and coal.

The third national convention on the country's economy that ended yesterday has recommended that Zambia Broadcasting Services [ZBS] should be allowed to operate on a commercial basis so that it could sustain itself and earn more revenue and foreign exchange. The convention, in its resolutions of power, transport, and communications, noted that television and radio services suffered from a shortage of technical manpower which had adversely affected the efficiency of ZBS. It further observed that radio reception in certain parts of the country was unsatisfactory, hence the need for the minister of information and broadcasting services to be allocated foreign exchange for urgent spares to repair the mass communication equipment, such as transmitters. It said that sufficient funds should be channeled for recruitment and training of manpower to jack up the broadcasting system in the country.

Foreign Affairs Official Asks German Help on Namibia

MB301657 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Otema Musuka has asked West Germans to persuade the white community in Namibia to discard their unfounded fear of majority rule. Addressing a 4-man delegation from the Green Party of West Germany in his office today, Mr Musuka said the Germans could contribute towards the attainment of independence in Namibia by assuring whites there that the independence struggle was not racial.

He said Germans were particularly well placed to play this role because a substantial part of the white community in the former German colony were of German origin. Mr Musuka noted that the independence of Namibia is inevitable and added that the only question was how much it will cost in human lives and resources.

Saudi Interior Minister, Delegation Visit

Meets Home Affairs Minister

LD272028 Riyadh SPA in English 1900 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Lusaka, July 27, SPA — The visiting Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz conferred here today with Zambian Home Affairs Minister Frederick Chomba on ways of developing bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

Addressing the opening session, Chomba said Prince Nayif's visit would further strengthen bilateral ties and allow the two sides to exchange views on issues of mutual interest.

For his part, Prince Nayif underlined the importance of friendly relations between the two countries and highlighted the Zambian people's efforts to realise independence and noted the Zambian stand towards the Arab nation and its decisive causes.

Later, Prince Nayif visited the Zambian police training school. He was accompanied by Chomba on the tour. He also offered Friday prayers at Lusaka mosque and donated 30,000 U.S. dollars for the mosque.

Confers With Kaunda

LD290750 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2255 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] Lusaka, 28 Jul (SPA) — His royal highness, Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, currently on a visit to Zambia, met with His Excellency Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda. The meeting was attended by Nalumino Mundia, Zambian prime minister; [George] Mulemba, general secretary of the party; Frederick Chomba, home affairs minister; and Lameck Goma, foreign minister. It was also attended by members of the delegation accompanying Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Zambian President Kaunda made a speech in which he welcomed Prince Nayif. He said that the visit will strengthen relations between the two countries. He also added that the Kingdom is a peacemaker in the area and Zambia encourages this role of the Kingdom. He expressed the hope that God will help the Kingdom in its endeavors in the Gulf area. President Kaunda welcomed the investment of Saudi money in Zambia and expressed the hope that investment in these Saudi projects in Zambia would increase.

In his speech President Kaunda extended an invitation to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to visit Zambia. He said: We hope that the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Nayif to Zambia is a preulde to a visit by his majesty.

President Kaunda noted that the Arab and African states have one line; namely, the only problem in the Middle East — the problem of Israel. He said: We are against racism and Zionism. We are against Zionism and South Africa persecuting the Arabs in the Middle East and Africans in Africa.

The Zambian president affirmed that his country stands along side the Arab states and will not restore its relations with Israel. He said: Our stand alongside the Palestinian issue springs from our hearts. The Palestinian armed struggle is considered as our own.

Afterward, Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz made a speech in which he expressed his thanks for the great welcome which has been accorded to him and his accompanying delegation by the people and Government of Zambia.

His royal highness also thanked the Zambian president for his country's view on the issues of the Arab nation and its preoccupations.

He affirmed that the Arab world and the Kingdom in particular appreciate this attitude of Zambia, especially its attitude toward Israel.

He added that President Kaunda knows about the attitude of the Arabs toward South Africa and Namibia.

His highness explained that the Arab states are against racial discriminiation and against the domination of the rights of peoples. This policy is followed by the Arab world from conviction and belief.

He expressed his thanks to Zambian President Kaunda for his concern and support for Gulf cooperation which benefits the area.

His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz then referred to the Iraq-Iran war. He said that the Gulf countries look at this war with fear because it harms all the states of the area.

He hoped that the war would end as soon as possible. He added: President Kaunda is already aware of the fact that Iraq has accepted all the mediations and solutions and that Iran has accepted nothing of this kind.

He said that the fact that the war has not come to an end is worrying the Kingdom and the Gulf states. He stressed that the Kingdom would spare no effort in ending this war.

He also expressed the hope that there would be frequent visits between officials from the two countries for the sake of strengthening cooperation between them.

ZIMBABWE

Minister Says Botswana Repatriates Over 1,000

MB302010 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The minister of state responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, disclosed today that Botswana has repatriated more than 1,200 Zimbabweans from Dukwe camp. Comrade Munangagwa told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation in Harare today that about 300 of them are former ZIPRA combatants who have been involved in acts of banditry in Matabeleland. The minister said Zimbabwe [words indistinct] contacted the Botswana Government over the settlement of bandits in that country.

It is anticipated that the repatriation of such people will be an ongoing measure. Comrade Munangagwa also said security forces have captured 400 bandits since the operation against dissidents started. He said of those captured, over 200 admitted to being South African-trained. The minister said weapons known to have been supplied by the Pretoria regime have also been recoverd in the raids on the bandits.

Comrade Munangagwa said the security forces are currently on alert on the Limpopo River, which marks the border with South Africa, following violations of the border by the South Africans.